



MISSION: To develop a unique business school identity which is distinctive in the marketplace and provides a clear value proposition for students. This will be achieved by embedding the themes of entrepreneurship and innovation, digitalisation and data within our programs and embracing sustainability, work integrated learning and a commitment to social justice.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Business Law provides the necessary legal framework to inform professional practice within accounting and related professions. This course encompasses both contract and commercial law introducing the participants to the Australian legal system, including sources of law, legal institutions and torts law. Topics developed under contract law include the law of offer and acceptance, consideration, breach of contract, remedies for breach of contract, and contract law with respect to the sale of goods. Commercial law topics comprise consumer law, the Competition and Consumer Act, principal and agent, property, trusts, consumer credit and law with respect to bankruptcy.

Contact Hours

Lecture:

Face to face on campus for two (2) hours per week for 12 weeks starting week 1.

Self-Directed Learning:

Six (6) hours of online content per term provided for self-directed learning.

Unit Weighting

10 units

Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in the Master of Professional Accounting, Master of Professional Accounting (Advanced), Master of Professional Accounting / Master of Business and M Prof Acct/M Bus Admin programs.

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings. The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Student Consultation

A minimum of one (1) hour consultation per week. Please see course CANVAS site for details of time and location.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognise and be able to restate the principal features of the Australian legal system including selected laws relating to business which form part of that system;
2. Identify and recount the sources of law in Australia;
3. Comprehend and apply the main principles of the law of contract to resolve problem situations arising in business environments;
4. Exhibit an integrative understanding of the law of torts, particularly the law of negligence as it relates to professional responsibility and the duty of care;
5. Interpret the law of consumer protection, business competition, principals and agents, property, business organisations, consumer credit and bankruptcy and implement these principles to critically analyse and evaluate relevant problem situations;
6. Investigate, formulate and apply a range of problem solving approaches to resolve business law issues; and
7. Understand the protection and privacy laws associated with the collection, storage, access, use and/or sharing of data and information.

COURSE OUTLINE

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below:

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Class Exam	Week 3	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3
2	Online Quizzes	Quiz A Fri – Week 4 Quiz B Fri – Week 6 Quiz C Fri – Week 10 Quiz D Fri – Week 12 All quizzes open at 7:00 am & close at 9:00 pm	Individual	20%	2, 3, 4
3	Mid-Trimester Assignment	Friday – Week 9 by 11:59 pm	Individual	20%	2, 3, 4
4	Final Examination	Formal Examination Period	Individual	50%	5, 6, 7

Please note: students are advised that ALL assessments must be submitted in English. Assessments not submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Time referenced is time in Newcastle NSW

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.
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Assessment 1 – Class Exam

Assessment Type	Class Test
Purpose	To test the student's progressive ability to apply 'legal technique' to a short problem question
Description	Simple problem question whereby students are to apply legal technique to a short problem question. Please refer to the course CANVAS site for further details.
Weighting	10%
Length	60 minutes
Due Date	Week 3
Submission Method	Hard copy handed to lecturer
Assessment Criteria	Refer to course CANVAS site
Return Method	Hard copy
Feedback Provided	Generic & Individual Feedback on Hard Copy

Assessment 2 - Online Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quizzes
Purpose	To test the student's basic knowledge of the key legal concepts introduced
Description	Each quiz comprises of 20 multiple-choice questions.
Weighting	20%
Length	60 minutes per quiz
Due Date	Quiz A: Open: Friday - Week 4 at 7:00 am – Closes: Friday Week 4 at 9:00 pm Quiz B: Open: Friday - Week 6 at 7:00 am – Closes: Friday Week 6 at 9:00 pm Quiz C: Open: Friday - Week 10 at 7:00 am – Closes: Friday Week 10 at 9:00 pm Quiz D: Open: Friday - Week 12 at 7:00 am – Closes: Friday Week 12 at 9:00 pm
Submission Method	Online – via course CANVAS site
Assessment Criteria	Refer to course CANVAS site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online – via course CANVAS site

Assessment 3 - Mid-Trimester Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	To test the student's ability to investigate, formulate and apply a range of problem-solving approaches to resolve business law issues.
Description	Problem question whereby students are to identify and apply the law to a given set of tasks in order to arrive at a well-reasoned conclusion.
Weighting	20%
Length	1500 words
Due Date	Friday – Week 9 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Online – via Turnitin
Assessment Criteria	Refer to course CANVAS site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Purpose	To test the student's ability to comprehend and apply the main legal principles introduced to resolve problem situations arising in business environments.
Description	Combination of short answer and problem-solving questions. This course has a RESTRICTED OPEN BOOK examination. A memory aid is permitted. The memory aid is a single double sided A4 sheet of handwritten or typed notes for use during the examination. Note: memory aids must be left on the examination table and cannot be removed from the examination venue.
Weighting	50%
Length	120 minutes
Due Date	Formal Examination Period
Submission Method	Formal Exam
Assessment Criteria	Refer to course CANVAS site
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback. Examination scripts will not be returned to students. Final examination scripts will be made available for review by students, upon request, in a controlled and monitored setting. Students are required to make requests, directly to the relevant course coordinator. Completed examination scripts are kept by the Newcastle Business School for a period of six (6) months only, from the relevant fully graded date. Requests made after the six (6) month period cannot be considered.

SYLLABUS

Course Content

Topics in the course include but are not limited to the following:

1. Australia's legal and political system, looking at the roles and functions of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, including those bodies' law making powers, the creation of the Australian Commonwealth and the reception of English laws into Australia.
2. The nature and sources of law; precedent and the court hierarchy; statue law and Statutory interpretation; administrative bodies and delegated legislation.
3. Contracts, looking at essential elements for a valid contract, determining what is in a contract, determining how to get out of a contract, discharging a contract, bringing a contract to an end and remedies for a breach of contract.
4. The Competition and Consumer Act as it relates to consumer protection and business competition.
5. Torts and professional responsibility, including the elements of negligence and torts relevant to business.
6. Agency & Employment law.
7. Property law.
8. Law relating to ways of conducting business
9. Consumer credit.
10. Bankruptcy law.
11. Data protection and privacy

Course Materials

Required Text:

Gibson, Andy & Osborne, Sarah (2020). *Business Law*, 11th Ed. Australia: Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd

ISBN: 9781488620737

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of additional recommended texts.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Workshop Activities
1	Introduction to Law / Sources of Law	Chapter 1 Chapter 2, section 1 & section 2 up to page 47 Weekly Learning Activity	
2	Sources of Law / Introduction to Contract & Agreement	Chapter 2, section 2 pages 47-62 Chapter 3, sections 1 & 2 Weekly Learning Activity	
3	Statute Law / Delegated Legislation / Precedent	No readings	Assessment 1 due: Class Exam – Week 3
4	Making a Contract (1)	Chapter 2, section 3 Chapter 3, section 3 Weekly Learning Activity	Assessment 2 due: (Quiz A) Open: Friday - Week 4 at 7:00 am Closes: Friday – Week 4 at 9:00 pm
5	Making a Contract (2)	Chapter 3, section 4 Weekly Learning Activity	
6	Getting out of a contract for lack of consent (1)	Chapter 4, section 1 & section 2 to page 192 Weekly Learning Activity	Assessment 2 due: (Quiz B) Open: Friday - Week 6 at 7:00 am Closes: Friday – Week 6 at 9:00 pm
7	Getting out of a contract for lack of consent (2)	Chapter 4, section 2 pages 192-197 + section 3 Weekly Learning Activity	
8	Determining what is in a contract	Chapter 5 Weekly Learning Activity	
9	Bringing a contract to an end / remedies	Chapter 6 Weekly Learning Activity	Assessment 3 due: Friday of Week 9 by 11:59 pm
10	Agency & Employment Law	Chapters 11 & 24 Weekly Learning Activity	Assessment 2 due: (Quiz C) Open: Friday - Week 10 at 7:00 am Closes: Friday – Week 10 at 9:00 pm
11	Protection for consumers / Consumer Credit & Bankruptcy Law / Data Protection and Privacy	Chapters 9, 10 & 27 Weekly Learning Activity	
12	Business Torts Exam Revision	Chapters 7 & 8 Weekly Learning Activity	Assessment 2 due: (Quiz D) Open: Friday - Week 12 at 7:00 am Closes: Friday – Week 12 at 9:00 pm

If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.

CONTACTS

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site. - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account. - Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system; 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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