

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

INTRODUCTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

900083

2020



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	June 2020
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Unit name	Introduction to the Australian Legal System
Unit number	900083
Coordinator	Bader Unnisa Mehdi
Session	2020.2
Handbook summary	This unit is designed to develop an understanding of the Australian legal system for students whose courses involve law units relevant to their area of study, such as Business, Construction, Policing and Criminology. Students will investigate the role of the Australian legal system in contemporary society, and explore its relevance to their chosen career path through project-based assessments. The unit will also help students develop the language and communication skills necessary for further tertiary study.
Credit point value	10 Successful completion of this unit will not be counted for academic credit in any future studies at Western Sydney University.
Prerequisite/s	N/A
Corequisite/s	N/A
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	N/A
Assumed knowledge	N/A
Unit level	Level Z – Non-award unit
Attendance requirements	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
Enrolment restrictions	Only students enrolled at The College can enrol in this unit.
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. define and use key legal terminology appropriately 2. demonstrate an understanding of key legal concepts, the role of law in society and its impact upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 3. explain the relevance of the Australian legal system to their chosen career path 4. demonstrate effective written communication skills 5. observe and report on the operation of Australian courts, and 6. demonstrate skills in legal problem solving.

Unit content	<p>In this unit students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the concept of law and the development of Australia's legal system the basic composition of the Australian legal system and introduction to key legal terms the function and operation of Australian courts, and the operation and practical relevance of major areas of law (including criminal/civil law, contract law, tort law and international law).
Mode of delivery	This unit consists of one 3-hour workshop each week for 12 teaching weeks.
Online learning requirements	
Essential requirements	<p>Essential text</p> <p>Carvan, J 2015, <i>Understanding the Australian legal system</i>, 7th edn, Thomson Reuters Professional Australia, Sydney.</p> <p>Further resources</p> <p>Brocherie, B (ed.) 2014, <i>The law handbook: your practical guide to the law in New South Wales</i>, 13th edn, Thomson Reuters Professional Australia, Sydney.</p> <p>Chislm, R & Nettheim, G 2012, <i>Understanding law: an introduction to Australia's legal system</i>, 8th edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Sydney.</p> <p>Crosling, GM & Murphy, H 2009, <i>How to study business law: reading, writing and exams</i>, 4th edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Sydney.</p> <p>Currie, SM 2002, <i>Your law: a course in legal studies</i>, 3rd edn, Thomson Learning, Melbourne.</p> <p>Law Vision 2010, <i>HSC legal studies 2010</i>, viewed 1 January 2019, https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C2113639.</p> <p>Milgate, P (ed.) 2010, <i>Cambridge legal studies — HSC</i>, 2nd edn, Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne.</p> <p>Newson, L 2002, <i>The legal maze: VCE units 1 & 2</i>, 4th edn, VCTA Publishing, South Yarra.</p> <p>Smith, M 2004, <i>Contracts</i>, 6th edn, LexisNexis Butterworths, Sydney.</p> <p>Terry, A 2003, <i>Business, society and the law</i>, 3rd edn, Thomson, South Melbourne.</p> <p>Young, A & Devery, P (eds.) 2015, <i>Introduction to Australian business law</i>, Thomson Reuters Professional Australia, Sydney.</p> <p>Zariski, A 2014, <i>Legal literacy: an introduction to legal studies</i>, Athabasca University Press, https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwsau/detail.action?docID=1848006.</p>

ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Quizzes ×4	40%	1, 2, 6	Y
2. Court report (1250 words)	35%	1, 2, 4, 5	Y
3. Case study (1000 words)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	Y
TOTAL	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

In order to pass this unit, students must:

- complete assessments based on the unit outline instructions given in Week 1 of term
- attempt/submit all required items of assessment and activities
- keep a copy of all work submitted, and
- achieve a total overall mark of at least 50%.