

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

INTRODUCTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

900083

2020



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	August 2020
---------------	-------------

© Western Sydney University Enterprises Pty Limited 2020

Except as provided by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be produced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of Western Sydney University Enterprises Pty Limited.

This unit outline is to be used for educational purposes only.

Students should not make this publication available commercially, or redistribute it by any technological means.

Students must not record lectures or tutorials via any technology unless they obtain the express consent of the lecturer prior to the lecture being given.

Western Sydney University The College
Nirimba Education Precinct
Eastern Road
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Postal address:
PO BOX 224
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Phone: (02) 9852 4488
Fax: (02) 9852 4480

Disclaimer

If you buy or use this publication you should understand clearly that it has been produced solely for learning purposes. While the author and Western Sydney University Enterprises Pty Limited have made every effort to ensure that the material in this publication is accurate and of high quality, you are expressly advised that you should not rely on the contents of this publication in order to make decisions having legal, accounting, property, financial, investment or similar consequences; or for any purpose other than learning. For any purposes other than learning you should first obtain the advice of an appropriately qualified professional. The author and Western Sydney University Enterprises Pty Limited disclaim any liability to any person, whether a student or otherwise, in respect of anything, and the consequences of anything, done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance, whether wholly or partially, on the whole, or any part of, or omission from, the contents of this publication.

Western Sydney University ABN 53 014 069 881 is a registered provider under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Provider Number 00917K.

Western Sydney University Enterprises Pty Limited ABN 44 003 474 468 trading as Western Sydney University The College (CRICOS Provider Number 02851G) is a wholly owned entity of Western Sydney University. Academic Pathway programs are delivered by Western Sydney University The College under arrangement with Western Sydney University.

Unit name	Introduction to the Australian Legal System
Unit number	900083
Coordinator	Bader Unnisa Mehdi
Session	2020.3
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>Chisolm, 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:

- attempt/submit all mandatory assessment tasks, and
- achieve an overall mark of at least 50%.