This unit is designed to develop both an understanding of the Australian legal system appropriate for day-to-day life in an increasingly complex and legalistic society and to prepare students for study at first-year university level including for business law. This unit has been developed specifically to develop confidence and empower students, to enhance the skills of analysis and synthesis and to develop critical thinking. It has also been written with the needs, particularly linguistic needs, of international students as a focus.

Successful completion of this unit will not be counted for academic credit in any future studies at Western Sydney University.
6. produce written text to explain, argue, discuss and report
7. apply the law in problem solving, and
8. communicate legal information logically through oral presentations.

Unit content
In this unit students will learn about:
- basic legal notions
- the historical evolution of the Australian legal system pre-1901 —
  Aboriginal customary law and evolution of the English system
- Federation and the Australian legal system
- Parliament
- the role of the courts
- introduction to criminal law
- introduction to civil law
- introduction to international law
- introduction to contract law, and
- introduction to tort law.

Mode of delivery
This unit is taught on a face-to-face basis through four hours of tutorials a week for 12 teaching weeks.

Online learning
requirements

Essential
requirements
References

Note: The three resources listed first should be used as basic references.
Those texts marked with * are more useful for the whole unit, while others
may be appropriate for sections thereof.
Those marked ** are university-level texts to be used only sparingly by
teachers and students.

Gleeson, W, Brogan, M, Hayes, M, Slow, V, N & Thiering, N 2003,
Heinemann legal studies: preliminary course, 4th edn, Heinemann,
Melbourne.

Barry, R (ed.) 2012, The law handbook, 12th edn, Redfern Legal Centre
Publishing, Sydney.*

Beazer, M, Filippin, L & Gray 2012, Access and justice, 10th edn, Oxford
University Press, Melbourne.*

Carvan, J 2009, Understanding the Australian legal system, 6th edn, The
Law Book Company, Sydney.


Chisolm, R & Nettheim, G 2012, Understanding law, 8th edn, LexisNexis
Butterworths, Sydney.

Crosling, G & Murphy, H 2009, How to study business law, 4th edn,
Butterworths, Sydney.

Currie, S & Cameron, D 1996, Your law, 2nd edn, Thomas Nelson,
Melbourne.*

Ellis, E, Goldring, J & Diekman, C 1996, Society, law and justice, Oxford
University Press, Melbourne.


Hamper, D, Derwent, B, Draper, A, Boesenberg, J & Kenny, C 2010, Legal
studies HSC, 3rd edn, Pearson Education Australia, Sydney.

Keeley, K, McCarthy, J, Suter, K & Watt, R 2000, Legal studies 1, Macmillan,
Melbourne.
ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Mandatory task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Intra-session test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1, 2, 4</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Report: Court report</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research assignment and presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1– 7</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- obtain an overall mark of at least 50%.