



LAW 109

Criminal Justice

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Law

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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W3A510

Tues 1-3

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

LAW115

Corequisites

Co-badged status

This unit is co-taught with LAW 209 as it is phased out (and replaced by LAW109 for all students commencing an LLB program from 2010 onwards).

Unit description

This unit aims to develop in students a thoughtful and critical understanding of the substance of criminal law, criminal procedure and the administration of criminal justice in contemporary Australian society. Students will critically examine principles of criminal responsibility, a range of criminal offences, and aspects of the investigation, prosecution and defence of criminal matters. Throughout the unit, students are required to consider and evaluate the ways that historical, social, political, philosophical and ethical factors inform the substance and operation of criminal law and procedure.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Explain general doctrines of criminal law, in particular, offences against the person and against property; various defences and principles of sentencing.

Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation,

regulations, parliamentary debates, and case law governing the administration of criminal justice.

Describe and critique the principal agencies, procedures and practices involved in the administration of criminal justice, including the way in which the rules of criminal law and procedure develop contextually through the interaction of various decision-makers (e.g., defendants, the police, the courts, prosecution, lawyers and victims of crime) within the broader aim of criminal justice.

Develop, critique and advocate legal policy reform proposals in the area of criminal justice, including to identify relevant issues and stakeholders, carry out independent research, engage in self- and peer critique, and advocate proposals through oral and written formats.

Collaborate effectively with other students on a group project.

Communicate effectively, verbal and written, with legal and non-legal audiences.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Task 1	30%	See Description
Task 2	20%	See Description
Task 3	50%	See Description

Task 1

Due: **See Description**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be required to complete 15 formative exercises. Each exercise will consist of a set of questions designed to enable students to develop their legal research and analytical skills, reinforce their knowledge of relevant doctrinal principles, and enhance their contextual understanding of the laws underpinning the administration of criminal justice.

This Task will be submitted and assessed in two parts as set out below. If a student anticipates being unable to submit a part of Task 1 by the relevant due date, and applies for an extension under the University Disruption Policy (via: ask.mq.edu.au), then they are required to submit their work in progress by the due date. Late submissions (without an approved extension under the disruption policy) will not be graded and will receive a grade of zero.

Exercise

Due

weight (%) 1-5 5:00 pm at the end of Week 3 10 6-15

5:00 pm at the end of Week 7

20

Exercises may include multimedia content, including pre-recorded lectures or podcasts, and most will require students to carry out independent research. All tasks will require access to a computer and the Internet in order to carry out online research to answer questions. On average, students should budget approximately 2 hours per Exercise.

Each exercise is assessed on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis against criteria, and weighted at 2% each. Each question in an exercise must be answered in order to receive a grade of 2%.

Students must submit each of Parts 1 and 2 of Task 2 using the Turnitin submission link on the unit's iLearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain general doctrines of criminal law, in particular, offences against the person and against property; various defences and principles of sentencing.
- Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, regulations, parliamentary debates, and case law governing the administration of criminal justice.

Task 2

Due: **See Description**

Weighting: **20%**

In this Assessment, students will collaborate in small groups to develop, critique and advocate legal policy reform proposals in criminal justice. The Project will be carried out in three stages with 'mini-deadlines' and weightings as follows:

Stage Due weight 2.A. Individual Submissions 5:00pm at the end of Week 6
15%

assessed

individually

2.B.1. Consensus Report

Internal Students: 5:00pm at the end of Week 8

External Students: 5:00pm at the end of Week 9

5%

assessed as a group

2.B.2 Consensus Presentation

Internal Students: Teaching Weeks 9-13 (in tutorials)

Distance Students: Day 2 of scheduled On Campus Sessions

P/F - (linked to 2.B.1.)

assessed as a group

The Individual Submission (Part 2.A) must be submitted using the Turnitin link provided on the unit's iLearn page. The Group Consensus Report (Part 2.B.1) will be submitted using the Assignment Submission Box set up on the unit's iLearn page. Group Presentations (Part 2.B.2) will take place between weeks 9-13 in a sequence that will be identified prior to the mid-semester break in tutorials.

Note: Part 2.B.1 is graded as a group - each person will receive the same grade of 0%, 3% or 5%, depending on the quality of the report (in accordance with criteria provided on the iLearn page). Part 2.B.2 is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Students who: (i) fail to attend their Group Presentation (in the absence of an approved application under the disruption policy); (ii) contribute meaningfully to their Group Presentation (Part 2.B.2); and/or (iii) demonstrably failed to contribute to the production of their Group Consensus Report (Part 2.B.1) will receive a grade of 0% for the portion of the grade for Task 2 corresponding to the Consensus Report (2.B.1). Students who fail to submit their Individual Submissions (Part 2.A) will be precluded from participating in the production of the Group Consensus Report (Part 2.B) and will receive a grade of 0/20 for Task 2.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain general doctrines of criminal law, in particular, offences against the person and against property; various defences and principles of sentencing.
- Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, regulations, parliamentary debates, and case law governing the administration of criminal justice.
- Describe and critique the principal agencies, procedures and practices involved in the administration of criminal justice, including the way in which the rules of criminal law and procedure develop contextually through the interaction of various decision-makers (e.g., defendants, the police, the courts, prosecution, lawyers and victims of crime) within the broader aim of criminal justice.
- Develop, critique and advocate legal policy reform proposals in the area of criminal justice, including to identify relevant issues and stakeholders, carry out independent research, engage in self- and peer critique, and advocate proposals through oral and written formats.
- Collaborate effectively with other students on a group project.
- Communicate effectively, verbal and written, with legal and non-legal audiences.

Task 3

Due: **See Description**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will be challenged to write a Chapter (2,750 - 3,250 words) for their prescribed textbook.

The focus topic will be identified by the Convenor in Week 2 of Semester.

The Task must be submitted via Turnitin by no later than 10:00pm on the Sunday immediately preceding the commencement of the formal Examination Period for the semester.

Further instructions will be provided on the unit's ilearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain general doctrines of criminal law, in particular, offences against the person and against property; various defences and principles of sentencing.
- Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, regulations, parliamentary debates, and case law governing the administration of criminal justice.
- Describe and critique the principal agencies, procedures and practices involved in the administration of criminal justice, including the way in which the rules of criminal law and procedure develop contextually through the interaction of various decision-makers (e.g., defendants, the police, the courts, prosecution, lawyers and victims of crime) within the broader aim of criminal justice.
- Develop, critique and advocate legal policy reform proposals in the area of criminal justice, including to identify relevant issues and stakeholders, carry out independent research, engage in self- and peer critique, and advocate proposals through oral and written formats.
- Communicate effectively, verbal and written, with legal and non-legal audiences.

Delivery and Resources

This unit has an online presence in iLearn, Macquarie's online learning management system (ilearn.mq.edu.au). Students will require access to reliable broadband internet and a computer.

More information is available at: www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/index.htm

Students will also be required to use a computer to interact with online research databases and web-based research tools.

The unit has a blended mode of delivery. A weekly 1-hour live lecture will also be recorded and available through Echo360. Internal students have a weekly 1-hour tutorial. Distance education students attend a two-day residential school (attendance is compulsory). This unit's ilearn page will also contain additional lessons with multimedia content to facilitate learning.

The following textbook is required:

- Jeremy Gans, *Modern Criminal Law of Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

The following textbook is recommended:

- Simon Bronitt and Bernadette McSherry, *Principles of Criminal Law* (Lawbook, 3rd ed, 2010).

Unit Schedule

Students enrolled in this unit should consult the unit's ilearn page for further details.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)

- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

Assessment Task 2 was previously divided into three parts. The weighting of Task 2 remains the same. Learning Outcome 1 (doctrinal knowledge) has been modified to reflect a decreased emphasis on criminal procedure, which will be addressed more fully in LAWS398 Civil and Criminal Procedure. Mapping of learning outcomes, assessments and graduate capabilities have been further refined.