



LAWS896

Independent Research Project in Law, Governance and Policy

FY1 Day 2016

Dept of Law

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

George Tomossy

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Contact via george.tomossy@mq.edu.au

W3A510

by appointment

Credit points

8

Prerequisites

Admission to LLM or MIntTrdeComLaw or MIntLawGovPP or JD

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to core concepts and principles of modern theories of legal governance. They will critique and contrast a variety of legal research methodologies and develop practical skills in undertaking such research, including: techniques in researching primary and secondary sources of law; elements of good legal writing; and literature review. Students will combine their skills and apply the lens of governance theory to formulate and execute an independent research project (10,000 words) on a topic of the student's choice.

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:

Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law

Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression

Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice

Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

General Assessment Information

Assessments are to be submitted online through Turnitin using the unit's iLearn page. All tasks must be submitted in Word (.doc or .docx) format.

Assessments are due by 5pm on the Friday of the week indicated.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
LAWS818 Assessment Tasks	50%	n/a
Reflection on Governance	10%	Week 6
Research Essay	40%	Final Week

LAWS818 Assessment Tasks

Due: **n/a**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are required to complete all four assessment tasks set out in LAWS818. The total marks earned for those assessments will be converted to a grade of 50 for the purpose of this unit. Students will be automatically enrolled into the LAWS818 iLearn page and required to submit all assessments for that unit via that page.

The Legal Research Plan (Assessment Task 4 for LAWS818) must relate to the essay topic that will be completed for this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law

Reflection on Governance

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will submit a short essay (1,000 - 1,250 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography) reflecting on principles and theories of governance as applied to the broad topic (see topics listed under the Research Essay task) that corresponds with the Research Proposal prepared in the LAWS818 component of the unit. Further instructions will be on the unit's iLearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice

- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Research Essay

Due: **Final Week**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are required to submit a 6,000 word (maximum length, excluding bibliography, tables, figures and appendices) research essay with references in accordance with the Australian Guide to Legal Citation 3 (AGLC3). They will apply their research skills and understanding of legal research methodologies to execute an independent research project to address a contemporary challenge in legal governance, from a domestic or international perspective, under one of the following broad topic areas:

1. Public Health
2. Environment
3. Commerce
4. Human Rights

The final paper is due by 5pm on the Friday of the final teaching week of the second semester in this year-long unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression
- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice
- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Delivery and Resources

In the first half of this year-long unit, students will complete all assessment tasks and attend seminars for LAWS818.

The second half of the unit will include online materials and seven 2-hour face-to-face seminars over the second semester of this year-long unit. These seminars are not compulsory.

Readings (links to articles) and further instructions will be provided on the unit's iLearn page.

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks
- Research Essay

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression
- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice
- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks
- Reflection on Governance
- Research Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression
- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice
- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks
- Reflection on Governance
- Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression
- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice

- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks
- Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks
- Research Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Achieve learning outcomes set out in LAWS818 Research Methodologies in Law
- Carry out an independent research project with an advanced level of written expression
- Relate principles and theories of governance to a particular doctrinal or policy area of the student's choice
- Analyse, synthesise and integrate scholarship on law, governance and policy to contemporary problems

Assessment tasks

- LAWS818 Assessment Tasks

- Research Essay

Changes from Previous Offering

The assessment regime has been modified to decrease the weight and word length of the Research Essay, to 40% and to add a Short Essay (worth 10%).