



LAWS812

Independent Research Project in Law, Governance and Policy

S2 Block 2017

Dept of Law

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

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W3A 625

Wed 10-11

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

LAWS818

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit, students will consolidate their understanding of core concepts and principles of modern theories of governance. They will examine critiques of 'governance' from different disciplinary perspectives. Case studies will be reviewed from the following areas: Public Health, Environment, Commerce, and Human Rights. Students will apply an interdisciplinary lens to produce an independent research paper or policy reform proposal (6,000 words) that builds on their Research Proposal developed in LAWS818. Students may focus on international, national or local governance issues.

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:

Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.

Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.

Engage in high level critical thinking and exercise judgment in the recognition and resolution of contemporary legal and policy challenges.

Apply sophisticated legal and policy research skills.

Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.

Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

General Assessment Information

Macquarie Law School Assessment Policy

In the absence of a successful application for special consideration due to a disruption to studies, any assessment task submitted after the published deadline will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero.

Applications for a [Disruption to Studies](#) are made electronically via ask.mq.edu.au and should be accompanied by supporting documentation. Students should refer to the [Disruption to Studies policy](#) for complete details of the policy and a description of the supporting documentation required.

Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be marked. The consequence of this will mean that **any words** over the word limit will not be read nor assessed by the marker. This may mean, for example, that the final paragraphs of the assessment are not marked, and therefore the assessment does not contain a conclusion. If this was the case, this would significantly impact the overall mark for the assessment, so please ensure strict compliance with the word limit.

All assessments in the unit are to be submitted electronically. Plagiarism detection software is used in this unit.

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 midnight on the week or day indicated for each assessment task.

Note: Deadlines refer to teaching weeks. The semester consists of 13 teaching weeks and a two-week mid-semester break.

Moderation

Detailed marking guidelines will be made available on iLearn. The convenor moderates all assessments. All Fail research essays and take-home exams are double marked.

Technology Required

All students need access to a secure and reliable server for access to iLearn and submission of assessment tasks.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Forum Responses	30%	No	Midnight Sunday (weeks 1-6)
Essay Plan	10%	No	11 September 2017 (week 7)
Research Essay	60%	No	6 November (week 13)

Online Forum Responses

Due: **Midnight Sunday (weeks 1-6)**

Weighting: **30%**

During weeks 1-6 students are required to actively participate in focused online discussions about the weekly topics. Every Monday (between weeks 1-6) the convenor will post a question based on that week's topics and students will write a response to this question by midnight on Sunday of the same week. These responses are to be approximately 250 words each.

Each question requires students to critically evaluate the materials posted on iLearn for that week's topic. These materials are: the lecture, the supplementary materials and the allocated readings.

Each student will write 6 responses and each response is marked out of 5. Students will receive their marks for this assessment in two stages: in week 4 (after submitting 3 responses to allow for early feedback before the census date) and then in week 7 (after submitting all responses).

Students are expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of principles and theories of governance derived from their learning in the unit and relate these understandings to the various weekly topics.

It is envisaged that these online responses will support students to build their knowledge throughout the early stages of the course.

All students will be able to read the responses after midnight each Sunday during weeks 1-6. Students are expected to read and reflect on other student's responses and in doing so students will support each other's learning in the early part of this unit. Students are encouraged to continue to discuss these topics in the online forum on iLearn beyond their individual contributions (although this is not compulsory).

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.
- Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with

promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.

- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.

Essay Plan

Due: **11 September 2017 (week 7)**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will revise their Research Proposal from LAWS818 and write an Essay Plan for their Research Paper. The Essay Plan is to be between 500-700 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography) and will include reference to the key issues, arguments, recommendations and authors that will be included in the final Research Paper.

Further instructions will be available on the unit's iLearn page.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.
- Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.
- Engage in high level critical thinking and exercise judgment in the recognition and resolution of contemporary legal and policy challenges.
- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.

Research Essay

Due: **6 November (week 13)**

Weighting: **60%**

Students are required to submit a 6,000 word (maximum total length inclusive of footnotes, bibliography, tables, figures and appendices) Research Essay with references in accordance with the Australian Guide to Legal Citation 3 (AGLC3). Students must 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 either a domestic or international perspective, under one of the following broad topic areas:

1. Human Rights and Governance
2. Environmental Governance
3. Privacy and Governance
4. Corporate Governance
5. Public Health Governance

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.
- Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.
- Engage in high level critical thinking and exercise judgment in the recognition and resolution of contemporary legal and policy challenges.
- Apply sophisticated legal and policy research skills.
- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.
- Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

Delivery and Resources

This unit consists of 6 lectures and a **compulsory** on campus session (OCS) all day on **Thursday 24 August, 2017**. Students who are unable to attend must apply for a disruption to studies. If that application is accepted, alternative work will be set in lieu of on-campus attendance.

In addition to the lectures students will be expected to access a range of online resources, as well as weekly readings. These will be posted on the unit's iLearn page for each weekly topic.

The first 6 weeks of the course is designed to provide a foundation to support students to undertake self-directed research and write the final Research Paper (6,000 words).

Unit Schedule

Week 1: Principles and Theories of Governance

Week 2: Human Rights and Governance

Week 3: Environmental Governance

Week 4: Privacy and Governance

Week 5: Corporate Governance

Week 6: Public Health Governance

Weeks 7-13: Self-Directed Independent Research

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_2016.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 (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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

- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.
- Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

Assessment task

- 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 outcome

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.

Assessment tasks

- Online Forum Responses
- Essay Plan
- 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

- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the broad body of theoretical and applied knowledge in law, governance and public policy.
- Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.
- Engage in high level critical thinking and exercise judgment in the recognition and resolution of contemporary legal and policy challenges.
- Apply sophisticated legal and policy research skills.

Assessment tasks

- Online Forum Responses
- 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

- Recognise and critically evaluate the range of contemporary challenges associated with promoting social justice, corporate responsibility and effective governance at the national and international levels.
- Apply sophisticated legal and policy research skills.
- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.
- Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

Assessment tasks

- Essay Plan
- 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

- Communicate effectively in the written form at a postgraduate level.
- Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

Assessment tasks

- Online Forum Responses
- Essay Plan
- 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 outcome

- Produce research findings that address contemporary legal, governance and policy challenges.

Assessment task

- Research Essay

Changes from Previous Offering

The unit delivery has been altered and the first 6 weeks of the unit now include 6 online lectures supported by additional online supplementary materials and various specific readings for the respective topics. The convenor as well as several other academics from the Macquarie Law School will deliver these lectures.

The learning outcomes for the unit have been amended.

An additional topic, 'privacy and governance', has been included in the unit.

The assessment regime has also been modified requiring students to respond to questions in the unit's online forum during weeks 1-6 (worth 30%). Further, the word length of the Essay Plan (500-750 words) and the Research Essay (6,000 words inclusive of footnotes, bibliography, tables, figures and appendices) have been increased.

Finally, attendance at the on campus session (OCS) is now compulsory for all students.