LAWS5920

Legal Research Project Part A

Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Macquarie Law School

Contents

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Rita Matulionyte
rita.matulionyte@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
100cp in LAWS units at 1000 level or above and a LAWS WAM of 75 or above

Corequisites
LAWS5910 (from 2022 onward)

Co-badged status

Unit description
This is an advanced legal research unit for Bachelor of Laws students intending to graduate with Honours. In this unit, students work under the close supervision of the academic convenor of the unit and their research supervisor to develop a thesis that addresses a contemporary legal problem. Students work to identify the appropriate legal research methodology to address their research question and then apply that methodology to answer the question in the form of an 8000 word thesis. This unit requires advanced legal research skills, the ability to engage in self directed research under supervision and superior legal writing ability. Students will learn to design research projects with rigorous research methodologies, to proffer good written analyses with sound argumentation, and to reflect on legal scholarship and on the law critically while conducted ethical research.

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:

ULO1: Independently plan an advanced legal research project under the supervision of a legal academic

ULO2: Choose, describe and critique a legal research methodology appropriate for the research plan

ULO3: Plan and execute a comprehensive literature review related to the research plan

ULO4: Identify and apply the ethics of legal research scholarship to the planning and execution of a research project

ULO5: Critically analyse complex legal problems by identifying, researching, evaluating and synthesising relevant factual, legal and policy issues

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
8000 word thesis	80%	No	Week 13
Thesis Plan	20%	No	Week 5

8000 word thesis

Assessment Type [1]: Thesis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 70 hours
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **80%**

Students will prepare an 8000 word thesis under close supervision from an academic from Macquarie Law School

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Independently plan an advanced legal research project under the supervision of a legal academic
- Choose, describe and critique a legal research methodology appropriate for the research plan
- Plan and execute a comprehensive literature review related to the research plan
- Identify and apply the ethics of legal research scholarship to the planning and execution of a research project

- Critically analyse complex legal problems by identifying, researching, evaluating and synthesising relevant factual, legal and policy issues

Thesis Plan

Assessment Type [1]: Plan
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **20%**

In consultation with their supervisor and the convenor, students will prepare a comprehensive plan for their thesis including a literature review and legal research methodology appropriate to the research question

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Independently plan an advanced legal research project under the supervision of a legal academic
- Choose, describe and critique a legal research methodology appropriate for the research plan
- Plan and execute a comprehensive literature review related to the research plan
- Identify and apply the ethics of legal research scholarship to the planning and execution of a research project

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Please refer to the ilearn site

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy

- Academic Integrity Policy

- Academic Progression Policy

- Assessment Policy

- Fitness to Practice Procedure

- Grade Appeal Policy

- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public

- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment

- Workshops

- StudyWise

- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides

- Ask a Librarian

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.