



LAWS1000

Foundations of Law

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff George Tomossy george.tomossy@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to LLB
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit will enable students to attain the key legal skills (legal research, reasoning, and writing; applying precedent; statutory interpretation; and legal problem solving) and to acquire the foundational legal knowledge (Australia legal institutions; legal theory; comparative legal systems; parliamentary process; role of the judiciary) necessary for further study in law. This unit will challenge students to apply their skills and knowledge to examine a contemporary socio-legal issue through a collaborative group project. Students will also engage in reflective practice.

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: Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms and foundational elements of the Australian legal system.

ULO3: Apply principles of statutory interpretation and the doctrine of precedent to interpret primary legal sources (case law and legislation) for the purpose of deriving legal rules and principles.

ULO2: Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation.

ULO5: Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources.

ULO6: Analyse legal problems in their broader social context

General Assessment Information

Further instructions for each assessment task are available on the unit's iLearn page.

Students are advised that all assessments in this unit are 'hurdle' assessments, which means that each assessment task must be completed at a Satisfactory level (to the standard prescribed for each assessment task) in order to pass this unit as follows:

- Quizzes for Task 1 must achieve a score of 100% correct.
- All criteria set out in the grading rubric for Task 2 (Core Skills Assignment) must be ticked off as Satisfactory.
- Legal Research Quizzes (Task 3) and Foundations of Law Quiz (Task 6) must each achieve a minimum score of 75% correct.
- Tasks 4 (group wiki) & 5 (group presentation) must each achieve a result of Satisfactory for both individual contributions to group work and collective work as assessed by the tutor against grading criteria.

The deadline for submission of supplementary work where students have failed to demonstrate learning outcomes to achieve a hurdle requirement will be one week following the above deadline for online quizzes (Tasks 1, 3 and 6) and two weeks from the return of written work (Task 2). Students who fail to achieve a satisfactory result for Tasks 4 and/or 5 will receive instructions on supplementary at the end of the teaching period.

In cases where students fail to complete one assessment task at a Satisfactory level (provided that they have made genuine attempts at both initial and supplementary work on that task), the Convenor may provide one further opportunity to reattempt the task or carry out supplementary work in order to achieve the required learning outcome(s). The Convenor will base this decision on a review of the student's work across the unit in consultation with the student's tutor(s) and/or marker(s).

The Faculty of Arts Late Submission Policy requires that: "Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline." No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests. Please note that this rule applies to the due date of applicable assessment tasks in this unit; the rule does not apply to a subsequent deadline prescribed for an assessment task for the purpose of completing supplementary work or re-attempts of online quizzes in order to satisfy hurdle requirements.

This unit is ungraded and will not count towards a student's LAWS WAM (Weighted Average Mark in LAWS units) . Students will be awarded 'Satisfactory' or 'Fail' at the end of the unit.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Academic Integrity and Referencing Quiz	10%	Yes	7 March 2022 10am
Core Skills Assignment	40%	Yes	21 March 2022 10am
Legal Research Quizzes	15%	Yes	4 April 2022
Law and Policy Reform Report	10%	Yes	2 May 2022 10am
Group Presentations	5%	Yes	Weeks 9-13 (in class)
Foundations Quiz	20%	Yes	Quiz Open: 23 May 2022 10am to 6 June 2022 10am

Academic Integrity and Referencing Quiz

Assessment Type [1](#): Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 5 hours

Due: **7 March 2022 10am**

Weighting: **10%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Two online multiple choice quizzes in which students will demonstrate their ability to apply principles of academic integrity and rules for correct legal citation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation.

Core Skills Assignment

Assessment Type [1](#): Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 25 hours

Due: **21 March 2022 10am**

Weighting: **40%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Consists of a short assignment (max 1,500 words, excluding footnotes) submitted online in which students will analyse and interpret primary legal sources (case law and legislation).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply principles of statutory interpretation and the doctrine of precedent to interpret primary legal sources (case law and legislation) for the purpose of deriving legal rules and principles.
- Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation.
- Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources.

Legal Research Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **4 April 2022**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Consists of five (5) online multiple choice quizzes where students will demonstrate their ability to carry out legal research using online databases, library and internet sources.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources.

Law and Policy Reform Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **2 May 2022 10am**

Weighting: **10%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Consists of a group report in which students aim to develop recommendations for legal and

policy reform to address a contemporary socio-legal problem.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation.
- Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources.

Group Presentations

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Weeks 9-13 (in class)**

Weighting: 5%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Consists of a group presentation (of findings reported in the Law and Policy Reform Report) and contribution to Q&A sessions from other presentations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse legal problems in their broader social context

Foundations Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Quiz Open: 23 May 2022 10am to 6 June 2022 10am**

Weighting: 20%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

This timed online quiz requires students to demonstrate their understanding of foundational concepts necessary for further study in law attained derived from lectures and readings throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms and foundational elements of the

Australian legal system.

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

All Lectures for this unit are pre-recorded and can be accessed via the unit iLearn page.

Tutorials will be conducted face-to-face and/or online (via Zoom), commence in **Week 1** and conclude in **Week 13**. Students should consult the official Timetable for class times, dates and locations (if face-to-face) and mode of delivery at a specified time at: <http://timetables.mq.edu.au>. Instructions for online tutorials via Zoom will be provided on the unit's iLearn page.

Online content for this unit can be accessed at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Required Textbooks:

- Michelle Sanson and Thalia Anthony, *Connecting with the Law* (Oxford University Press, 4th ed, 2018).
- Michelle Sanson, *Statutory Interpretation* (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed, 2016).
- Gabrielle Appleby, Alexander Reilly and Laura Grenfell, *Australian Public Law* (Oxford University Press, 3rd ed., 2018).

Additional required and recommended reading materials will be posted at the unit's iLearn page.

Computer and Internet access are **required** in order to successfully complete this unit. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Unit Schedule

Week #	Topics Covered
1	Welcome and Overview; Academic Honesty; Legal Citation
2	Common Law and Equity; Statutory Interpretation
3	The Australian Constitution and Separation of Powers; Briefing Cases
4	Judicial Reasoning and the Doctrine of Precedent; Legal Problem Solving

5	Law and Policy Reform; Analysing Scholarship
6	Australian Courts
7	Tribunals
8	Indigenous Customary Law
9	Introduction to International Law
10	The Rule of Law
11	Democratic Institutions
12	Advocacy
13	The Rest of your Law Degree

Further details on lecture topics and tutorial activities can be found on the unit's iLearn page.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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) (<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) (<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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault

- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.