LAWS5920

Legal Research Project Part A

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Macquarie Law School

Contents

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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

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

All assessments are submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments.

Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked. Footnotes are to be used only for referencing. Referencing must conform to the requirements set out in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation.

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

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

[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

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
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Delivery and Resources

The unit will be delivered in semi-intensive mode. During Weeks 1-6 we will have 2-hour workshops (either face-to-face or online mode). During the remaining of the semester there will be no workshops and students will work with their supervisors to write and finalize their thesis.

The prescribed textbook is Terry Hutchinson, Researching and Writing in Law (Thomson Reuters, 4th ed). For further teaching resources consult 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
- 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). 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

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.