General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Daley Birkett
Contact via iLearn
See iLearn

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
LAW115 or LAWS1000

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit aims to develop in students a critical understanding of substantive criminal law - what makes an accused guilty or not guilty of a crime. Students will learn the principles of criminal responsibility and the defences available to an accused, and then apply that knowledge to a range of crimes including murder, assault and property offences. Students are encouraged to consider if the criminal law of NSW is rational, fair and just, and how it has been shaped by historical, social, political and philosophical factors.

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: Apply principles of statutory interpretation and problem solving methods to criminal justice scenarios
ULO2: Explain general doctrines of criminal responsibility and outline elements of offences and defences in accordance with Priestley requirements for legal practice
ULO3: Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, case law and parliamentary debate governing the administration of criminal justice
ULO4: Identify how the criminal law of NSW has been shaped by historical, social, political and philosophical factors

ULO5: Communicate, interact and collaborate professionally and effectively in verbal and non-verbal contexts across diverse settings.

ULO6: Work independently, meet deadlines and take initiative.

General Assessment Information

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under ‘Policies and Procedures’ below).

Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to online exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours.

Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via ask.mq.edu.au, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under ‘Policies and Procedures’ below).

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Class Participation

**Assessment Type 1**: Participatory task  
**Indicative Time on Task 2**: 2 hours  
**Due**: Ongoing  
**Weighting**: 20%

An assessment of students’ participation in tutorials which may include participation in tutorial discussions and debates, problem-solving, role plays, critical engagement with the unit materials, and other activities. This may require preparation before the tutorial including completing the required readings and considering or preparing responses to the tutorial materials.

On successful completion you will be able to:  
- Apply principles of statutory interpretation and problem solving methods to criminal justice scenarios  
- Explain general doctrines of criminal responsibility and outline elements of offences and defences in accordance with Priestley requirements for legal practice  
- Identify how the criminal law of NSW has been shaped by historical, social, political and philosophical factors  
- Communicate, interact and collaborate professionally and effectively in verbal and non-verbal contexts across diverse settings.

**Practice-Based Task**  
**Assessment Type 1**: Practice-based task  
**Indicative Time on Task 2**: 20 hours  
**Due**: Friday 13/09/2024, 11:55 pm  
**Weighting**: 40%

An assessment on professional skills and knowledge relevant to the unit. This could be a legal or policy brief, a report, an essay, a law reform proposal, legal pleadings or other related professional task. This assessment may require students to prepare a response through research and adhere to discipline-specific scholarly conventions.
On successful completion you will be able to:

• Apply principles of statutory interpretation and problem solving methods to criminal justice scenarios
• Explain general doctrines of criminal responsibility and outline elements of offences and defences in accordance with Priestley requirements for legal practice
• Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, case law and parliamentary debate governing the administration of criminal justice
• Communicate, interact and collaborate professionally and effectively in verbal and non-verbal contexts across diverse settings.
• Work independently, meet deadlines and take initiative.

Exam
Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours
Due: University Exam Period
Weighting: 40%

An invigilated exam held in the formal examination period. The exam may cover any or all topics and materials covered in the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Apply principles of statutory interpretation and problem solving methods to criminal justice scenarios
• Explain general doctrines of criminal responsibility and outline elements of offences and defences in accordance with Priestley requirements for legal practice
• Research, analyse, synthesise, interpret and derive legal principles from legislation, case law and parliamentary debate governing the administration of criminal justice
• Communicate, interact and collaborate professionally and effectively in verbal and non-verbal contexts across diverse settings.
• Work independently, meet deadlines and take initiative.

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.

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**

**Delivery**

This unit is delivered via weekly live and pre-recorded lectures and a weekly, in-person tutorial.

Please note that both lectures and tutorials commence in Week 1 and run into Week 13.

This unit is worth 10 credit points, which equates to 150 hours of work. Therefore, students should expect to commit an average of 10 hours per week to this unit, including all scheduled and unscheduled activities and preparing and executing the assessment tasks.

**Resources**

The required textbook is:

Roderick Howie, Paul Sattler and Marissa Hood, *Hayes & Eburn Criminal Law and Procedure in New South Wales* (LexisNexis Butterworths, 7th ed, 2022) or


Students can purchase the textbook online from online resellers such as Booktopia, Amazon and Zookal.

Additional readings will be accessible through iLearn.

Students require access to a computer, internet with decent speed and a secure/reliable server. The iLearn page contains all Unit requirements and a weekly schedule for teaching, readings and tutorials. Information about all assessment tasks is also available on iLearn.

**Unit Schedule**

Week 1: Introduction to criminal justice - what is crime?

Week 2: Principles of criminal responsibility

Week 3: Murder

Week 4: Involuntary manslaughter

Week 5: Voluntary manslaughter

Week 6: Assault

Week 7: Defences I

Week 8: Defences II

Week 9: Summary offences
Week 10: Property offences
Week 11: Sexual assault
Week 12: Extended criminal liability
Week 13: Drug offences

**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](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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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/](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.
Changes from Previous Offering

This unit now includes an invigilated exam that will be run centrally by the university and held in the University Exam Period.

Unit information based on version 2024.04 of the Handbook