LAWS529
Information Technology Law
S1 External 2016
Dept of Law

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General Information

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Lecturer and tutor
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To be advised
To be advised

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(24cp in LAW or LAWS units) or (39cp including MAS214)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Cyberspace presents the law with many challenges. This unit introduces the basic legal issues raised by networked digital technologies such as the internet. Topics as diverse as jurisdiction; proprietary rights (copyright, trademarks, patents, domain names); privacy; e-commerce and its framework; and selected others are discussed. The emerging law and leading policy debates concerning information technology are studied.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of information technology law.
2. Articulate the specific rules of information technology law through closely examining
legislation and case law.

3. Apply the law to hypothetical fact situations through analogising and distinguishing.

4. Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.

5. Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.

6. Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.

7. Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 9th and April 10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1 April 2016, 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Take-home assessment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6 June 2016, 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class participation**

Due: **April 9th and April 10th**

Weighting: **20%**

Tutorial participation for external students will be taken on the two On Campus Sessions. The OCS are designed to extend the law outlined in the lectures through the consideration of specific issues discussed in scholarly articles, the intensive analysis of relevant cases, and the solving of hypothetical problem questions.

**Tutorial Questions** - The tutorial questions for each tutorial are found in the LAWS 529 iLearn site under the relevant week. The first on-campus day will cover weeks 1 - 6 inclusive, and the second day will cover 7 - 12 inclusive.

**Tutorial Readings** - Students are expected to listen to lectures on Echo on iLearn, complete the required reading and come ready to discuss the questions outlined in the Tutorial Questions.

**On campus session**

External students are required to attend all of both days of the On-Campus Session.

**Assessment of class participation**

Class participation will be assessed on the quality and regularity of participation, not on its quantity. Class participation will be assessed on the following criteria:

**Ability to critically discuss the material** - the student is able to demonstrate reading and
engagement with the reading materials and lectures for each week. This will be demonstrated by ability to answer relevant questions, responding to and participating effectively in class debates, and by asking questions to clarify anything not understood.

**Oral expression** - the student is able to verbally express their ideas about the materials in a clear, coherent, and concise manner;

**Engaging with other students** - the student engages with others in the class, displaying respect for others' opinions, active listening, constructive feedback and dialogue;

Further detail is provided in the Participation Rubric on the LAWS 529 iLearn site.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Apply the law to hypothetical fact situations through analogising and distinguishing.
- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.

**Assignment**

**Due:** 1 April 2016, 5pm  
**Weighting:** 40%

**Question for research assignment** - The *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015* (Cth) (the "Act") forms Australia's first comprehensive data retention scheme. It requires the telecommunications industry to retain a limited set of metadata for two years. Analyse the merits of the Act, and consider whether, and to what extent, the present law in this area should be retained, amended or repealed.

- Due date - Friday 1 April 2016, 5pm, via Turnitin on iLearn LAWS529 site.
- Please refer to the assessment rubric for the assignment on the LAWS 529 i-Learn site.
- Please note that the assignment requires independent legal research which goes beyond the legal materials provided in the unit.
- Word limit of 2,000 not including footnotes. Footnotes to be confined to references.

**Application for an extension**

In the absence of a successful application for special consideration due to a disruption to studies, any assessment task submitted after its published deadline will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero. All applications for a Disruption to Studies need to be made.
electronically via ask.mq.edu.au and should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

**Please do not email to request an extension or email to seek the outcome of a lodge application. No information can be provide via email, all information will be provided via the Ask system.**

**Other relevant information**

Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be marked. All assessments in the unit are to be submitted electronically. Plagiarism detection software is used in this unit. Please ensure all citations are in accordance with the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of information technology law.
- Articulate the specific rules of information technology law through closely examining legislation and case law.
- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Final Take-home assessment**

**Due:** 6 June 2016, 5pm  
**Weighting:** 40%

**Content**

The final take-home assessment will consist of two questions covering all material covered in the unit. Each question is worth 20%. The assessment will consist of one essay question and one problem solving questions.

**Word length**

A maximum word length of 1,200 applies to each question (total of 2,400 words).

**Duration**

The take-home assessment is designed to be completed in 7 hours (including lunch and tea breaks). However, to provide flexibility, to support the multiple commitments of students and to accommodate disability, a period of three days will be provided for the exam. Even though this extended period of time is provided, only seven hours will be needed for the exam.

**Release and due dates**
The Assignment Questions will be posted on iLearn on Friday 3 June 2016 at 5pm. The final assessment is due on Monday 6 June 2016 at 5 pm.

**Application for an extension**

In the absence of a successful application for special consideration due to a disruption to studies, any assessment task submitted after its published deadline will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero. All applications for a Disruption to Studies (or deadline extension) need to be made electronically via ask.mq.edu.au and should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

**Other relevant information**

Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be marked. All assessments in the unit are to be submitted electronically. Plagiarism detection software is used in this unit.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of information technology law.
- Articulate the specific rules of information technology law through closely examining legislation and case law.
- Apply the law to hypothetical fact situations through analogising and distinguishing.
- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
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**Delivery and Resources**

**Prescribed textbook**


**Tutorial readings**
In addition to the prescribed text book, it is necessary to read the materials noted in the Tutorial Questions. The Tutorial Questions are found on the iLearn site. The Tutorial Readings are found on the iLearn site and in e-reserve.

**Useful Journals**

- *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*, Oxford University, UK.
- *Media and Art Law Review*, University of Melbourne Press, Australia.
- *Information and Communications Technology Law* 299-314, University of Surrey, UK.

**Legislation:**

All Commonwealth and State statutes and regulations can be found at [http://www.austlii.edu.au](http://www.austlii.edu.au).

Ensure reference is made, wherever possible, to consolidated legislation.

**Case Law:**

For *reported case law*, use the Macquarie University library to access the:

- Lawbookonline database (e.g. CLR, FCR, FLR, NSWLR);
- Lexisnexis (Aus) database (e.g. ALR, IPR).


**Websites**

See links to useful websites provided on LAW iLearn page.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture (Uploaded on Echo)</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Reading for Lecture</th>
<th>Reading for Tutorial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/61801/unit_guide/print](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/61801/unit_guide/print)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Reading prescribed under</th>
<th>Reading on ilearn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>29 February 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Introduction</td>
<td>Tutorial 1</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 1</td>
<td>Week 1 on ilearn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7 March 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 2: Jurisdiction</td>
<td>Tutorial 2</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 2</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 2 on ilearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14 March 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 3: E-contracts I</td>
<td>Tutorial 3</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 7</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 3 on ilearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21 March 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 4: E-contracts II</td>
<td>Tutorial 4</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 7</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 4 on ilearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>28 March 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 5: Patents</td>
<td>Tutorial 5</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 5</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 5 on ilearn</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 April 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 6: Trade marks and domain names</td>
<td>Tutorial 6</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 6</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 6 on ilearn</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>25 April 2016</td>
<td>Lecture 7: Content Regulation</td>
<td>Tutorial 7</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 3</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 7 on ilearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
<td>Lecture 10</td>
<td>Lecture 11</td>
<td>Lecture 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 May 2016</td>
<td>9 May 2016</td>
<td>16 May 2016</td>
<td>23 May 2016</td>
<td>30 May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copyright I</td>
<td>Copyright II</td>
<td>Internet Crime</td>
<td>Consumer Protection and Security</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial 8</td>
<td>Tutorial 9</td>
<td>Tutorial 10</td>
<td>Tutorial 11</td>
<td>Tutorial 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 4</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 4</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 11</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 8</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, Chapter 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 8 on ilearn</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 9 on ilearn</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 10 on ilearn</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 11 on ilearn</td>
<td>Reading prescribed under Week 12 on ilearn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final assessment due this week. See above section on assessment. Questions released on Friday 3 June, 5pm via iLearn Turnitin. Assignment is due on Monday 6 June, 5pm via ilearn Turnitin.**

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**Policies and Procedures**

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

Unit guide LAWS529 Information Technology Law

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

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.

Please do not email to request an extension or email to seek the outcome of a lodge application. No information can be provide via email, all information will be provided via the Ask system.

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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative
We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Apply the law to hypothetical fact situations through analogising and distinguishing.
• Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
• Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.

Assessment tasks

• Class participation
• Assignment
• Final Take-home assessment

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking
We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to
have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Apply the law to hypothetical fact situations through analogising and distinguishing.
- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class participation
- Assignment
- Final Take-home assessment

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class participation
- Assignment
- Final Take-home assessment
Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Develop skills for designing new laws and for reforming existing laws by examining policy debates and law reform discourse as applied to new or emerging technologies areas.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class participation
- Final Take-home assessment

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class participation
Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Provide legal advice through properly identifying legal issue(s), applying the relevant law to the identified issues, and accurately assessing the likely outcome.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class participation
- Final Take-home assessment

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**

- Final Take-home assessment

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of information technology law.
- Articulate the specific rules of information technology law through closely examining legislation and case law.
- Present, articulate, and defend through oral legal reasoning responses to diverse questions within information technology law.
- Undertake in-depth research of critical issues in information technology law utilising scholarly legal publications from both national and international sources.

Assessment tasks

- Class participation
- Assignment
- Final Take-home assessment