LAWS600
Foundations of Law
S3 Day 2015
Dept of Law

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
George Tomossy
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W3A510
by appointment

Tutor
Keith Williams
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by appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to JD or GradCertLaw or GradDipLaw

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit will enable students to attain well-developed cognitive and practical key legal skills (legal research, reasoning, and writing; applying precedent; statutory interpretation; and legal problem solving) and to acquire an advance level of foundational legal knowledge (Australia legal institutions; legal theory; comparative legal systems; parliamentary process; role of the judiciary) necessary for further graduate 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:
Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)

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

Analyse factual problem scenarios and prepare a structured response using the HIRAC framework for legal problem solving

Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources, and apply research skills to legal problem solving and analysis

Communicate effectively in written form to both legal and non-legal audiences

Consider, critique and recommend innovative solutions to contemporary legal problems in their broader social context

Identify and explain the broader philosophical, ethical and socio-political context of legal issues and problems

Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms in the Australian legal system (including private and public law, indigenous customary law, international law) and other legal systems in the world

Apply reflective practice to learning as law students and as future legal professionals

**General Assessment Information**

Unless otherwise noted or instructed by the Unit Convenor or your tutor, **Assessment Tasks are due by 10am on the date indicated for the assessment task in this unit guide.**

This unit is graded on a Satisfactory (Pass) or Fail basis. Assessment weightings are merely indicative of relative workload. **In order to pass this unit, each task must be completed at a Satisfactory level.**

In the case of online quizzes (Tasks 1 and 2, which are graded automatically), student have unlimited attempts to achieve the satisfactory level (100% for Task 1; 60% for each quiz in Task 2).

For Tasks 3 and 4, if deemed to be ‘unsatisfactory’ by their tutor in accordance with the rubric provided, students will be required to reflect on the feedback provided and re-submit their work, indicating explicitly within their resubmitted work how they have taken the feedback on board. Your tutor will specify the deadline for resubmissions. Further resubmissions may be permitted at the tutor’s discretion.

For Task 5, a student may be required to resubmit their work if deemed to be ‘unsatisfactory’. In most cases, the student will receive feedback and no resubmission will be required.

Students who fail to submit a genuine attempt (indicated by having attempted to answer all parts of the assessment as provided in the instructions) will be graded as Unsatisfactory for that task.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/70501/unit_guide/print
Assessment Tasks

<table>
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<th>Weighting</th>
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<td>Legal Research Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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**Academic Honesty & Referencing**

Due: **14/12/2015**  
Weighting: **5%**  

Students will be required to complete two multiple choice quizzes with a score of 100% to demonstrate:

- Understanding and application of principles of academic honesty; and  
- Ability to follow the correct rules for citation (AGLC3).

Students may re-attempt these two quizzes an unlimited number of times.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
Legal Research Quizzes

Due: 22/01/2016
Weighting: 15%

The Quiz topics are:

1. The Constitution
2. Commonwealth Legislation
3. NSW Legislation
4. Domestic Legislation (outside NSW)
5. Case Law
6. HANSARD
7. International Law
8. Law Reform Commissions
9. Judicial Commission

Quizzes 1-5 should be attempted before attempting Task 3; and quizzes 6-9 should be attempted attempting Task 4 or 5. All quizzes must be completed with a minimum score of 60% (each) in order to pass this assessment and achieve the associated learning outcome. Students may re-attempt these quizzes an unlimited number of times, but successfully complete them all by the final day of classes in the semester.

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, and apply research skills to legal problem solving and analysis

Core Skills

Due: 23/12/2015
Weighting: 30%

This assignment (1,000-1500 words) will require students to demonstrate the following core skills:

- understanding of principles of statutory interpretation;
- the ability to clearly and concisely summarise a case;
- understanding of the doctrine of precedent;
- the ability to interpret case law and legislation for the purpose of deriving and constructing legal rules and principles;
- the ability to carry out basic legal research tasks, including finding and analysing relevant primary and secondary sources; and
• the ability to communicate effectively in a written form.

Students may be required to resubmit their assessment, incorporating feedback provided by their tutor. Any resubmission must be completed by the deadline set by the tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
• 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
• Communicate effectively in written form to both legal and non-legal audiences
• Apply reflective practice to learning as law students and as future legal professionals

Hypothetical Problem

Due: 08/01/2016
Weighting: 20%

In this essay (1,000 words), students will solve a hypothetical problem in public law. Students will be required to demonstrate:
· the ability to analyse factual scenarios and identify relevant legal issues;
· the ability to understand and apply basic principles of legal problem solving and reasoning;
· the ability to carry out basic legal research tasks, including finding and analysing relevant primary and secondary sources;
· the ability to communicate effectively in a written form to a legal audience.

Students may be required to resubmit their assessment, incorporating feedback provided by their tutor. Any resubmission must be completed by the deadline set by the tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
• 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
• Analyse factual problem scenarios and prepare a structured response using the HIRAC framework for legal problem solving
• Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources, and apply research skills to legal problem solving and analysis
• Communicate effectively in written form to both legal and non-legal audiences
Law & Policy Reform Project
Due: 18/01/2016
Weighting: 30%

This Assessment is divided into two parts:

Part 1: Students will prepare a written submission (1,000 – 1,500 words) advocating legal and policy reforms drawn from a list of pre-selected current issues. Students will be required to demonstrate:

• the ability to interpret primary and secondary sources for the purpose of deriving and constructing legal rules and principles;
• the ability to engage creatively with contemporary legal problems in their social context and to propose innovative solutions;
• the ability to communicate effectively in written form with a non-legal audience; and
• the ability to demonstrate their understanding of the broader philosophical, ethical and/or socio-political context of legal issues and problems.

Part 2:
Students will write a short reflection (500-750 words) in which they consider their own Law and Policy Reform Report and set out:

1. relevant sources of legal norms in the Australian legal system (including private and public law, indigenous customary law, international law) and other legal systems in the world to the issues at stake; and
2. how further study in the JD program would assist them to build their knowledge base and legal skills to provide more rigorous, critical and innovative solutions. Students will be challenged to reflect on the anticipated relevance of each of the other compulsory units in the JD program and at least four electives of their choice.

Through this assessment task, students will also be required to demonstrate their understanding of the Australian Legal System and Sources of Law (derived from their reading of the course text) and capacity to engage in reflective practice.

Students may be required to resubmit their assessment, incorporating feedback provided by their tutor. The absolute deadline for resubmissions of this task is Sunday 10pm, approximately two weeks following the end of Week 13.

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, and apply research skills to legal
problem solving and analysis
• Communicate effectively in written form to both legal and non-legal audiences
• Consider, critique and recommend innovative solutions to contemporary legal problems in their broader social context
• Identify and explain the broader philosophical, ethical and socio-political context of legal issues and problems
• Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms in the Australian legal system (including private and public law, indigenous customary law, international law) and other legal systems in the world
• Apply reflective practice to learning as law students and as future legal professionals

Delivery and Resources

REQUIRED TEXT:

FURTHER READING:
Michelle Sanson, Thalia Anthony and David Worswick, Connecting with the Law (Oxford University Press, 3th ed, 2010).
Michelle Sanson, Statutory Interpretation (Oxford University Press, 2012).

Additional required and recommended materials will be posted at the website of the Unit.

This unit is delivered online and can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/.

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.

An optional one-day workshop is provided for students in Sydney on the North Ryde Campus. Room locations and dates can be obtained from: http://timetables.mq.edu.au Students are advised to re-check that web site for room changes closer to the date. Students are required to RSVP via the unit iLearn page to confirm their attendance at the workshop for planning purposes.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html
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.

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 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
IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help. When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities
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 outcome
• Consider, critique and recommend innovative solutions to contemporary legal problems in their broader social context

Assessment task
• Law & Policy Reform Project

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 principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
• Apply reflective practice to learning as law students and as future legal professionals

Assessment task
• Academic Honesty & Referencing

Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships
with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Apply reflective practice to learning as law students and as future legal professionals

**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**

- Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
- 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
- Analyse factual problem scenarios and prepare a structured response using the HIRAC framework for legal problem solving
- Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources, and apply research skills to legal problem solving and analysis
- Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms in the Australian legal system (including private and public law, indigenous customary law, international law) and other legal systems in the world

**Assessment tasks**

- Academic Honesty & Referencing
- Legal Research Quizzes
- Core Skills
- Hypothetical Problem
- Law & Policy Reform Project
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 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
- Analyse factual problem scenarios and prepare a structured response using the HIRAC framework for legal problem solving
- Consider, critique and recommend innovative solutions to contemporary legal problems in their broader social context
- Identify and explain the broader philosophical, ethical and socio-political context of legal issues and problems
- Define, describe and relate sources of legal norms in the Australian legal system (including private and public law, indigenous customary law, international law) and other legal systems in the world

**Assessment tasks**

- Core Skills
- Hypothetical Problem
- Law & Policy Reform Project

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**

- Analyse factual problem scenarios and prepare a structured response using the HIRAC framework for legal problem solving
• Locate relevant primary and secondary sources through legal research using online databases, library resources and internet sources, and apply research skills to legal problem solving and analysis

Assessment tasks
• Legal Research Quizzes
• Core Skills
• Hypothetical Problem
• Law & Policy Reform Project

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
• Communicate effectively in written form to both legal and non-legal audiences
• Consider, critique and recommend innovative solutions to contemporary legal problems in their broader social context

Assessment tasks
• Core Skills
• Hypothetical Problem
• Law & Policy Reform Project

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
• Apply principles of academic honesty and rules for correct legal citation (AGLC3)
• Identify and explain the broader philosophical, ethical and socio-political context of legal
issues and problems

Assessment task

• Law & Policy Reform Project

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:

Learning outcome

• Identify and explain the broader philosophical, ethical and socio-political context of legal issues and problems

Assessment task

• Law & Policy Reform Project