

Course Outline

Code: JST101

Title: Justice and the Australian Legal System

School: Law and Criminology
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019

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Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

Justice and the Australian Legal System provides an introduction to the legal institutions and principles that frame our justice system. The course examines the development of our law-making institutions, the courts and parliament. You are then introduced to the legal principles that shape the ongoing development of our law, the doctrine of precedent and principles of statutory interpretation. The interface of law and broader notions of justice are examined via consideration of a range of justice issues, including access to justice, issues of law reform and Aboriginal justice.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Caloundra Magistrates Court	Talk by Magistrate Tonkin on Access to Justice issues; observe proceedings in the Magistrate Court – Week 5
Maroochydore District Court	Observe a trial in the District Court – Week 10

2. What level is this course?

100 level Introductory - Discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Normally associated with the first full-time year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Apply scholarly writing, research and reference practice in respect of Australia's legal system.	1 and 2	Empowered.
Explain and describe the key elements and theories of the Australian justice system and how they impact on society.	1,2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Creative and critical thinkers.

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

LAW101 or LAW102

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

N/A

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Formative feedback will be provided in the first four weeks of semester. The topics for the four short answer questions in the task 1 assessment will be covered in Weeks 1 to 4. Drafts of each of question will be reviewed in tutorials.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Written Piece	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2500 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Examination	Individual	40%	2 hours	Central examination Period	Exam Venue
			100%			

Assessment 1: Minor assignment (Short Answer Questions)

Goal:	The purpose of this task is for you to explore the central themes of Justice and the Australian Legal System as well as introduce you to basic researching.
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	There will be four (4) short answer questions. The questions, and the due date and time for submission, will be provided to you on Blackboard in Week One of the semester. To assist you to prepare for this task, activities and academic writing preparation tasks will be provided to you during tutorial time from weeks 1 –4. Informal feedback will be provided to you during these activities and tasks.
Criteria:	<p>Your answers to the short answer questions will be evaluated according to levels of achievement in the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of knowledge: a systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the question posed. • Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question. • Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources. • Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Assessment Task 2: Major assignment (Short Answer Questions)

Goal:	In this task, you will explore, critique and demonstrate your understandings of key concepts and issues relating to Justice and the Australian Legal System.
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	There will be five (5) short answer questions (2500 words). The questions will be provided to you via Blackboard by Week 5 of the semester and will be due at the end of Week 9. You will be advised of the exact time that this assessment item is due on Blackboard.
Criteria:	<p>The short answer questions will be evaluated according to levels of achievement in the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of knowledge: a systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the question posed. • Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question. • Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources. • Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Assessment Task 3: Final exam

Goal:	This exam is designed to evaluate your understanding and knowledge of the complexities of the Australian Legal and Justice system and how it impacts on society.
Product:	Examination
Format:	The exam will be timetabled in the exam weeks at the end of semester. The exam will consist of eighty (80) multiple choice questions which may be drawn from any area of Justice and the Australian legal system covered in the course. The final examination will be two hours in duration. More details on the final examination will be provided during semester.
Criteria:	<p>Assessment of performance in the final examination will be made according to the level of achievement in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of knowledge of Justice and the Australian legal system, as evidenced by accurate recognition/statement of relevant principles. • Demonstration of understanding of the principles of Justice and the Australian legal system –application of principles to the fact situations as stated and/or discussion of relevant topics. • Demonstration of requisite academic communication skills, as evidenced by logical structure of arguments, appropriateness of conclusions, and use of accurate and appropriate expression

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	On campus lecture: 2hours per week (Weeks 1-13) On campus tutorial: 1 hour per week (Weeks 2, 4-8, 10-13)
Online	2-hour lecture format and 1 hour tutorial in weeks.2, 4-8,10-13. Students watch the lecture online and participate in weekly tutorials via the Zoom function at the course website. Online students must be able to attend campus for the end of semester exam. This is the only on campus attendance requirement. Students will also need access to a computer with an internet connection, microphone and camera, to access learning materials and complete required tasks and activities.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

Author	Year	Title	Publisher
Mackay, A & Chifflet, P	2018	<i>Legal Institutions and Methods</i>	Thomson Reuters.

8.2 Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessability@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au