



COURSE OUTLINE

JST101

Justice and the Australian Legal System

Course Coordinator: Mary Riley (mbaker1@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast
USC Moreton Bay

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

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. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial - 2 hours in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.	2hrs	Week 2	6 times
Online – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Lecture – On campus seminar - 2 hours in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.	2hrs	Week 2	6 times
ONLINE 1			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial - 2 hours in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.	2hrs	Week 2	6 times
Online – Recorded seminar - 2 hours in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. The recorded seminar will be available to view after the scheduled on campus seminar.	2hrs	Week 2	6 times
Lecture – 1 hour online lecture content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	1hr	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Nature and Sources of Law; Origins of the Australian Legal System and the Constitutional Framework; Researching in Legal Studies; Legal Institutions and Processes; Access to Justice; Doctrine of Precedent; Statutory Interpretation; Multiculturalism & Indigenous Justice; Role of the Judiciary; Role of Juries; Impact of Law Reform.

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study 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?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Apply scholarly writing, research and reference practice in respect of Australia's legal system.	Empowered
2 Explain and describe the key elements and theories of the Australian justice system and how they impact on society.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker

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. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

LAW101 or LAW102

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

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 question will be reviewed in tutorials.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2500 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	2 hours	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 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:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of knowledge: a systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the question posed 2
	2	Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question 2
	3	Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources 1
	4	Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling 1

All - 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:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of knowledge: a systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the question posed 2
	2	Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question 2
	3	Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources 1
	4	Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling 1

All - 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 - Centrally Scheduled	
FORMAT:	The exam will be timetabled in the exam weeks at the end of semester. The exam will consist of four (4) short answer questions drawn from Weeks 9 - 12. The online, open book final examination will be two hours in duration. More details on the final examination will be provided during semester.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of knowledge of Justice and the Australian legal system, as evidenced by accurate recognition/statement of relevant principles 2
	2	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 2
	3	Demonstration of requisite academic communication skills, as evidenced by logical structure of arguments, appropriateness of conclusions, and use of accurate and appropriate expression 1

7. Directed study hours

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.

7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
Week 1 - Lecture Only	Introduction, Nature and Sources of Law
Week 2 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Origins of the Australian Legal System and the Constitutional Framework Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 1 & 2
Week 3 - Lecture Only	Researching in Legal Studies
Week 4 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Legal Institutions and Processes Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 3 & 4
Week 5 - Lecture Only	Access to Justice
Week 6 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Doctrine of Precedent Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 5 & 6
Week 7 - Lecture Only	Statutory Interpretation
Week 8 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Multiculturalism & Indigenous Justice Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 7 & 8
Week 9 - Lecture Only	Role of the Judiciary
Week 10 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Role of Juries Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 9 & 10
Week 11 - Lecture Only	Impact of Law Reform
Week 12 - Lecture, Seminar & Tutorial	Course Review Seminar & Tutorial: Topics 11 & 12

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

Please note: 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. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Hardy, K	2019	Law in Australian Society – An Introduction to Principles and Process	Allen & Unwin: Sydney

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 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

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

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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 to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. 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>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **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