



Course Outline

Code: LAW102

Title: Foundations of Australian Law B

Faculty: Arts, Business and Law
School: USC Law School
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2018

Course Coordinator: Dr Ben Wardle
Office No: JG.09
Phone No: +61 7 5456 3481
Email: bwardle@usc.edu.au

Course Moderator: Dr Dominique Moritz
Email: dmoritz@usc.edu.au

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 Course description

This course introduces you to legal systems, contexts and perspectives. You will learn about other legal systems and their interactions with the Australian legal system. You will critically examine legal issues and current developments in diverse contexts, with reference to broader inter-disciplinary and inter-cultural perspectives. You will develop your legal writing skills and extend your research skills to include secondary legal sources.

1.2 Course content

1. Jurisprudence, legal ethics, and access to justice
2. Indigenous legal issues and perspectives
3. Liberalism
4. Development of research skills and legal writing
5. Critical legal thinking
6. Law and critique: feminism, Marxism and realism
7. Natural law and positivism
8. Theory in practice: popular culture and *Mabo*
9. Law and sustainability

2. Unit value

12 units

3. 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 outcome in task/s:	Graduate Qualities Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Identify and articulate legal issues; and research, evaluate, synthesise and apply relevant legal and policy matters.	1, 2 and 3	Empowered. Knowledgeable.
Critically analyse legal developments with reference to broader contexts.	1, 2 and 3	Empowered. Creative and critical thinkers.
Identify ethical issues arising in legal contexts and determine an appropriate response.	1, 2 and 3	Ethical. Sustainability-focussed.
Demonstrate legal reasoning and problem solving skills to generate appropriate responses to legal issues.	2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Empowered.
Demonstrate effective written communication skills.	1, 2 and 3	Empowered. Knowledgeable.

4. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the **Coursework Programs and Awards - Academic Policy** for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”

4.1 Enrolment restrictions

Enrolled in any Laws program

4.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

4.3 Co-requisites

LAW101

4.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

4.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills

Not applicable

5. How am I going to be assessed?

5.1 Grading scale

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

5.2 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Online quiz	Individual	10%	10 question quiz	Week 4	Blackboard
2	Research essay	Individual	40%	1500 words	Friday, Week 9	Blackboard
3	Final examination	Individual	50%	2 hours plus 30 minutes preparation time	Central examination period	In exam venue
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Online Multiple-Choice Quiz

Goal:	The goals of this exercise is to develop your critical thinking skills.	
Product:	10 question multiple-choice quiz	
Format:	You will complete the quiz online at your convenience between Monday and Friday of week 4.	
Criteria	Demonstrating understanding of critical thinking	
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level	
Problem solving	Introductory	
Communication	Introductory	

Assessment Task 2: Research essay

Goal:	You will write critically on an assigned topic from the course, drawing on materials studied and other primary and secondary sources identified through your own research. To help you prepare for this task, you will undertake a writing and planning activity in the week 6 tutorial, with formative feedback provided during that tutorial.	
Product:	Essay	
Format:	An essay, 1500 words, with footnote references in accordance with the <i>Australian Guide to Legal Citation</i> plus bibliography.	
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of the topic • Analysis and critical thinking • Structure and writing • Referencing 	
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level	
Information literacy	Introductory	
Communication	Introductory	

Assessment Task 3: Final examination

Goal:	The goal of this examination is for you to identify legal and ethical issues, to synthesis and apply legal and ethical rules, principles, concepts and broader perspectives studied in the course to generate appropriate responses to legal issues, and to communicate effectively.
Product:	Hand written answers to examination questions.
Format:	This is an individual assessment. You will have two hours plus 30 minutes reading and preparation time to complete the assessment. You may use any materials to construct answers to unseen legal problems and questions drawn from any part of the course.
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly identifies legal and ethical issues; • Synthesises and applies principles, concepts and broader perspectives to generate appropriate responses to legal issues; • Communicates effectively.
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Communication	Introductory
Problem solving	Introductory

5.3 Additional assessment requirements**Plagiarism**

In order to minimise incidents of plagiarism and collusion, 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.

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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

5.4 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.

6. How is the course offered?**6.1 Directed study hours**

On campus Lecture: 2 hours per week (Weeks 1-13)

On campus Tutorial: 1 hour per week (Weeks 1, 3 – 13)

On campus Computer Lab: 1 hour in week 2 only

6.2 Teaching semester/session(s) offered

Semester 2

6.3 Course activities

The Course activities for this course will be provided on Blackboard no later than one week before the first class.

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

7.1 Prescribed text(s)

There is no prescribed text for this course. Weekly readings will be provided on Blackboard.

7.2 Required and recommended readings

Lists of required and recommended readings may be found for this course in the Course Reading Guide, which will be made available on the Blackboard site. These materials/readings will assist you in preparing for tutorials and assignments, and will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.

7.3 Specific requirements

Nil

7.4 Risk management

Health and safety risks have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to research and understand risks of specific courses and to review the USC's health and safety principles by viewing the online induction training for students.

8. How can I obtain help with my studies?

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

9. Links to relevant University policies 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

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

10. General enquiries

In person:

- **Sippy Downs** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building B, Ground floor (level 1)
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Building A
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au