

JST101 Justice and the Australian Legal System

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to usc.edu.au 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
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – 2-hour tutorials on-campus	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
Seminar – Introductory seminar	1hr	Week 1	Once Only
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Asynchronous online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – 2-hour online tutorials	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
Seminar – 1 hour introductory seminar	1hr	Week 1	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

- Nature and Sources of Law
- Origins of the Australian Legal System and the Constitutional Framework
- Researching and Writing in Legal Studies
- Legal Institutions and Processes
- Doctrine of Precedent
- Statutory Interpretation
- Access to Justice: Resources
- Access to Justice: Pluralism & Indigenous Justice
- The Criminal Justice system: Roles and Processes
- The Criminal Justice System: Punishment, Sentencing and Appeals [Violence]
- The Impact of Law Reform: Institutions
- Law Reform: Democratic Participation

1.4. Mature Content

Violence

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 Describe the key elements and theories of the Australian justice system and explain how they impact on society.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2 Apply and evaluate the legal principles that shape the ongoing development of the law.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Apply scholarly writing, research and reference practice in respect of Australia's legal system.	Empowered
4 Develop and support their own arguments using evidence-based research and critical analysis.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC 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 or LAW100 or LAW108

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 trimester through tutorials and consultations.

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%	Up to 1000 words	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2000 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	2.5 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Research Skills in Law

GOAL:	You will apply legal research skills learned and practiced in the course and evaluate credible and authoritative sources of legal information.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	This task consists of research and citation tasks and short answer questions. The questions, and the due date and time for submission, will be provided to you on Canvas in Week 1 of the trimester. The task will be due at the beginning of Week 5. 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	1
	2	Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question	1 2 4
	3	Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources	3
	4	Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: Long Answer Research Questions

GOAL:	In this task, you will research, explore, apply and demonstrate your understandings of key concepts and issues relating to Justice and the Australian Legal System.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	This task will consist of long-answer questions with a research component. The questions will be provided to you via Canvas by Week 4 of the trimester and will be due at the beginning of Week 10. You will be advised of the exact time that this assessment item is due on Canvas. Students will be required to use Cadmus for this task.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of knowledge: a systematic presentation of relevant knowledge addressing the nature and scope of the question posed	1
	2	Demonstration of understanding: a logical application and evaluation of relevant knowledge to the assignment question	1 2 4
	3	Demonstration of academic research skills: evidence of sound research and accurate and appropriate referencing of sources	3 4
	4	Demonstration of academic writing skills: appropriate and effective structuring of arguments, clarity of expression and correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy		

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 consist of short answer questions. The online, open book final examination will be 2.5 hours in duration. More details on the final examination will be provided during trimester.		
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	1
	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	1 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	3
	4	Demonstration of critical analysis skills and the synthesis of knowledge.	1 2 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy		

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. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

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 Canvas 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	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Keiran Hardy	2019	Law in Australian Society: An Introduction to Principles and Process	n/a	Routledge

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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au