COURSE OUTLINE

JST101 Justice and the Australian Legal System

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 2

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 unisc.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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES 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

5.5. Microcredential Information

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: Written Task

GOAL:	To demonstrate effective knowledge of the key themes of the course
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Students are required to complete the task using Cadmus

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: Essay

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
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Students are required to complete the task using Cadmus

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
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Students are required to complete the task using Cadmus

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

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the Library at no additional cost.

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. 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

10.5. 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.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central