

LAW105 Legal Interpretation and Persuasion

School: School of Law and Society

2025 Semester 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.

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

This course introduces you to the critical and analytical skills required to study law. You will study logic and methods of argumentation, legal problem solving and critical skills in interpreting and applying both case law and legislation. You will also develop your legal written and oral skills, which will be crucial for your study of law.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Mandatory Contact Point during Orientation Week	3hrs	Orientation week	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – On-Campus Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Mandatory Contact Point during Orientation Week	3hrs	Orientation week	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – Online Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

This course focuses on building your critical and analytical skills, and is aligned with your study of LAW100 Introduction to Law to maximise your legal understanding and skill development. Legal Interpretation and Persuasion will enable you to navigate your study of the law by teaching you:

- The structure of legal authority and how to craft legal arguments (including addressing questions of authority and sources of law, logic, argument, syllogism and legal problem solving)
- How to read and interpret the law (including theories of interpretation, understanding the law as a process of meaning-making, reading cases and statutory interpretation)
- The art of legal persuasion (including written persuasion skills and oral presentation and persuasion skills)

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 Understand the structure of legal authority and argumentation	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2 Develop and utilise critical thinking, analysis, and sound judgement to generate appropriate and practical responses to legal problems and ethical issues.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Problem solving
3 Develop and demonstrate the ability to apply the techniques of legal interpretation to understand and produce legal meaning.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
4 Demonstrate effective, persuasive, and contextually appropriate written and oral communication.	Empowered Communication

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

Enrolled in UB008 or AD001 or AR013 or AR390 or AR391 or AR392 or AR396 or AR397 or AB310 or AB311

5.2. Co-requisites

LAW100

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Early feedback will be provided in Weeks 2-4 throughout the 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	1a	Activity Participation	Individual	0%	3 hours	Refer to Format	In Class
All	1b	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	Weekly two-hour tutorials	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Portfolio	Individual	50%	2500 Words	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	3	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	40%	1000 Words (worth 20%) + 10 minute oral presentation (worth 20%)	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1a: Mandatory Contact Point attendance

GOAL:	To successfully complete LAW105 Legal Interpretation and Persuasion and meet the Bachelor of Laws accreditation requirements at UniSC, students must attend in-person and participate in the Mandatory Contact Point held in Orientation Week.				
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation				
FORMAT:	In-person attendance during scheduled orientation week activities				
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Engagement with course content 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	1	Engagement with course content 1
No.	Learning Outcome assessed				
1	Engagement with course content 1				
GENERIC SKILLS:					

All - Assessment Task 1b: Tutorial Participation

GOAL:	To demonstrate consistent and active engagement during tutorials about legal argument, interpretation and persuasion.	
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation	
FORMAT:	Oral responses to questions and engagement in discussion within the weekly tutorials.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Applied knowledge of legal argument	1 2
	2 Applied knowledge of legal interpretation	3
	3 Develop skills in written and oral persuasion	4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving	

All - Assessment Task 2: Portfolio

GOAL:	To assess your skills in legal problem-solving, reading, interpretation and communication	
PRODUCT:	Portfolio	
FORMAT:	A collection of tasks, including class activities, written submissions, peer-review and reflection. Portfolio tasks to be submitted at specific points across Weeks 4 to 12.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Knowledge and understanding of the principles of legal interpretation	3
	2 Evidence your understanding of structure of legal argumentation	1
	3 Analysis and Problem Solving	2
	4 Appropriate Academic Communication	4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy	

All - Assessment Task 3: Oral and Written Persuasion Task

GOAL:	To assess your knowledge of legal argument, statutory interpretation and skills in written and oral presentation and persuasion.	
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Submission involves two components: a 1,000 word written response through the online submission point in Canvas; a 10minute oral presentation to be scheduled during the exam period.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Apply legal knowledge effectively to generate appropriate and practical responses to legal problems.	2 3
	2 Demonstrate clear and persuasive communication skills	4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation	

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	D Hamer; J Jones; P O'Mara; B Smith; T Taylor	2023	Laying Down the Law, 12th Edition	12	LexisNexis

8.2. Specific requirements

To successfully complete LAW105 Legal Interpretation and Persuasion and meet the Bachelor of Laws accreditation requirements at UniSC, students must attend in-person and participate in the Mandatory Contact Point held in Orientation Week. Failure to attend the Mandatory Contact Point will mean that students are not able to pass the course.

Online options will be offered for all in-semester classes, in-person attendance is only required for Orientation Week.

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