

LAW207 Constitutional Law

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

This course introduces you to the Australian constitutional arrangements for allocating powers to governmental institutions and for establishing the legal relationship between those institutions and the people of Australia. You will examine the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and Queensland parliaments with emphasis upon matters about which the Commonwealth may make laws; the relationship between the three branches of government - the legislature, the executive and the judiciary - and the role of the High Court in deciding whether they have acted within their constitutional powers.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1.5hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1.5hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

Constitutional Law offers a comprehensive exploration of the fundamental principles and structures that govern a nation's highest legal framework. Specifically, this course covers:

- The Foundations of Constitutional Government – *How is the Constitution structured and how does it give effect to governance?* (The Constitution and The Parliament, State and Territory Powers, Separation of Powers, Heads of Power)
- The Legislature – *What is the Legislature and how does it operate to create laws within Australia?* (Legislative Power, Demarcations of Power, Limits on Power)
- The Executive – *What is the Executive and how does it operate to administer the laws within Australia?* (The Executive, Executive Power)
- The Judicature – *What is the Judicature / Judiciary and how does it operate to interpret Australian laws?* (Judicial Power)

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

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 Analyse facts to identify legal issues within complex constitutional law scenarios, including the legal issues posed by Australia's federal system of government.	Knowledgeable Empowered
2 Explain the relevant laws, processes and concepts of constitutional law to resolve a legal issue.	Knowledgeable
3 Utilize critical thinking, analysis, and sound judgment to apply legal knowledge effectively in diverse contexts, generating appropriate and practical responses to complex problems and ethical issues.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical
4 Demonstrate effective, persuasive, and contextually appropriate written and oral communication.	Empowered
5 Develop and demonstrate effective presentation skills, including proper referencing and citation techniques, to communicate legal information accurately and professionally.	Empowered
6 Demonstrate understanding of the implications of Australia's constitutional arrangements for the country's future as a liberal, democratic state.	Sustainability-focussed

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

LAW102 or LAW108 or LAW105 or LAW103

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

LAW301

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

By Week 4 of this course students will have received feedback on their understanding of key concepts and principles covered in Weeks 1-3.

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	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	Weekly	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	40%	20 minutes oral presentation and 10 minutes questions, plus 2,000 words.	Week 12	To be Negotiated
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	3 Hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Active Participation

GOAL:	In this task, you will demonstrate active and regular engagement with the course's learning materials.	
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	Active participation in weekly activities	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation	

All - Assessment Task 2: Constitutional Reflection

GOAL:	To test your ability to provide legal advice using the skills of legal reasoning and analysis in the context of constitutional law and your ability to understand the implications of that legal advice on governance issues.	
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	Oral & Written Piece	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Your ability to apply relevant legal principles	3 6
	2 The soundness of your advice	1 2 6
	3 The quality of your writing, referencing, spelling, grammar, and punctuation	4 5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation	

All - Assessment Task 3: Invigilated Final Examination

GOAL:	In this task, you will demonstrate your knowledge and application of Constitutional Law in response to unseen exam questions.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	This assessment task is an online, open-book and invigilated exam. You will be required to attend a live Zoom session throughout the duration of the exam and need access to a working computer, a stable internet connection, and a webcam.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Your ability to identify relevant legal issues and principles	1 2
	2	Your ability to state the law correctly	1 2
	3	The quality of your legal analysis	3 6
	4	Communicate clearly and effectively	4 5
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

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	John Pyke	2023	Government Powers Under a Federal Constitution	3rd	Thomson Reuters

8.2. Specific requirements

This course meets the necessary content requirements for Constitutional Law under the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge of Schedule 1 of the LACC Uniform Admission Rules 2015 (the 'Priestley 11').

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](#)