

Course Outline (Higher Education)

Faculty:	Federation Business School
Course Title:	LEGAL RESEARCH METHODS
Course ID:	BULAW1506
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(BULAW1502)
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED Code:	090901

Description of the Course :

This is a foundation course for students completing the law major within the Bachelor of Commerce and involves three related areas - understanding legal discourse and its ethical context, application of legal research skills and developing legal literacy. Each focus area is delivered and assessed by a different strategy. Like any discipline, law uses its own language and media forms and the course is designed to enable students to master these. Legal authorities must be recorded in a specific official format and discussion about these rules systems involves following conventional modes of expression. Law is fundamentally concerned with written text and this course introduces a variety of genres within legal texts and encourages students to develop critical legal reading and comprehension strategies. Particular attention is given to the primary sources of law, legislation and case law, and to their interaction.

Grade Scheme:

Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Work Experience:

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

Placement Component:

No

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the course the students are expected to be able to:

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Knowledge:

- K1.** Understand how law addresses social problems and ethical issues in particular contexts
- K2.** Locate and critically evaluate the impact of legal authorities – case law, legislation and regulatory instruments - to wide ranging contemporary contexts

Skills:

- S1.** Contextualise legal research within problems relating to legal issues;
- S2.** Discuss the evolving nature of statutory interpretation, including examining methods and conventions of statutory interpretation in traditional and modern contexts;
- S3.** Adapt knowledge of humanities and social science research methods to contextualise and critically examine legal information;
- S4.** Develop problem-solving skills in the context of complex legal problems and scenarios

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Articulate opinions in an academic manner supported by research evidence and confirm development in legal literacy skills; and
- A2.** Contextualise legal knowledge in relation to other academic, social and community discourses

Course Content:

Topics may include:

- Critical evaluation of sources of legal information, both primary (statute and case law) and secondary (reports, summaries and analyses)
- Legal Research Approaches and Protocols
- The rules and requirements of statutory interpretation
- Legal Reasoning
- Statute and case law and their use in legal research

Values:

- V1.** To appreciate that the law is influenced and shaped by social, economic, environmental, political, ethical and/or international considerations.
- V2.** To appreciate that the law affects both decision making and practice.
- V3.** To appreciate the empowerment that access to and knowledge of law gives to members of society.
- V4.** To develop a desire to be an active learner, one who reads, reflects, is autonomous, is proactive, discusses, reflects, writes and makes linkages.
- V5.** To develop an understanding that learning is a continual life-long process.
- V6.** To identify your weaknesses and strengths and reflect on how you learn.

Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Students focus on solutions to problems by application of knowledge and a range of skills	High

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students develop the ability to think critically and seek input from a variety of sources	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Students achievements in this course are valuable for their future career	Medium
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students are educated in the role and importance of responsibility, ethics and engagement in society	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K2, S2, S3, A2	Identification, analysis and critique of secondary legal resources and their value to research	Essay	25-35%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1	Research, critically analyse and apply a range of legal resources to a legal problem and/or issue	Research Essay/Assignment	30-55%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S4, A1, A2	Articulate and justify views on legal research, apply problem-solving skills to legal problem scenarios	Examination or test	20-35%

Adopted Reference Style:

Other (Footnotes AGCL)