

T1 2025

TRIMESTER GUIDE

Listed (Elective) Unit information

The Trimester Guide is prepared by the UNE Law Students' Society with the generous support of the School of Law, our sponsors, and contributors.





Acknowledgement of Country

The University of New England Law Students' Society respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture.

In doing so, UNELSS values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

As we share our own knowledge and learning within the University, we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.



Message from **Deb Russell** **LSS Publications Director**

Hi everyone,

Happy new year and welcome to the T1 2025 edition of the Trimester Guide! I hope you did some of your favourite things and enjoyed a little downtime in the break.

The main purpose of the Trimester Guide is to provide you with information about Listed Units, all in one place. Whether you are undertaking the Bachelor of Laws, Diploma in Paralegal Studies, Advanced Diploma in Paralegal Studies, or Bachelor of Legal Studies, information about Listed Units is relevant to you – always check the requirements of your specific course. We also aim to bring you some points of connection to the profession and each other.

Last year, some of our cohort attended the NSW Bar Association's Open Day for Women and Gender Diverse Law Students in Sydney. Practitioners took students along to watch and discuss court proceedings, and visit their workplaces.

We were treated to a discussion with The Hon Justice Kristina Stern SC, The Hon Justice Wendy Abraham QC, and Deputy Chief Magistrate Sharon Freund. They shared why they chose law, how they got their start, perspectives on life at the Bar, and advice for students wanting to tread a similar path. Common themes between them included: wanting to work in a field that helps ordinary people; discovering an ability to try and persuade (and enjoying that challenge); and realising there's more than one pathway to your career goal, whatever it may be. Sharyn Hall SC hosted that discussion and I am delighted she agreed to be a feature contributor in this edition. Read on for Sharyn's insights about building a career in law and her reflections on life at the Bar for LGBTQI advocates.

Also in this edition, our LSS President Jordanna D'cruz had the pleasure of inviting former Justice of the High Court The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG to share his thoughts about the fundamentals of a successful career in law, study techniques to try, and his view about the biggest issue facing the legal profession. The LSS is very fortunate and grateful for The Hon Michael Kirby's generous support and fondness for UNE.

Lastly, this edition has something new just for fun: 'Convince me'. We asked a group of students and lecturers who are presenting in the School of Law Induction in February (read on for the schedule and details) for their short opinion on a silly question. Are you convinced? Look out for the LSS Facebook poll to cast your vote, and add your own opinion in the comments!

Good luck on the final stretch this trimester.

Deb

ESSENTIALS

Student Resources

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/student-resources>

Note: The 'Law School Student Essentials' is always updated near the start of trimester.

UNE Handbook

<https://handbook.une.edu.au/>

Note: Undergraduate students enrolled in the Bachelor of Laws may be able to enrol in some LLM listed units with permission from the School of Law. Please check your course requirements first, and complete the waiver of prerequisites form:

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/school-policies/waiver-of-prerequisites>

LLM465 Introduction to Transition and Succession Planning is offered in T1 2025 and is profiled in this edition of the Trimester Guide, so that students are aware of this additional option.

Law School Unit Offerings

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/law-unit-offerings>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB
24-25**

School of Law Induction

Monday 24-Tuesday 25 February 2025 (Armidale)

Open to all – schedule overleaf

**FEB
26**

Student Day at Common Law Week

Wednesday 26 February 2025 (Armidale + online)

Open to all – stay tuned for details!

**MAY
8-10**

UNELSS Mindful Justice Conference

Thursday 8-Saturday 10 May 2025 (Armidale)

Open to all – watch this space!

**MAY
10**

Autumn Graduation

Saturday 10 May 2025

What is Common Law Week?

Common Law Week is organised by the School of Law each trimester. Attendees learn, engage and participate in presentations and social networking. All members of the Law School staff (permanent and casual) participate in Common Law Week. For some sessions, students in all year groups including Masters and PhD, adjunct and honorary staff, as well as community members and guests are welcomed to attend in person or online. The program and focus for each Common Law Week is publicised in advance, indicating which sessions are open to students to attend.

SCHEDULE

SCHOOL OF LAW INDUCTION

DAY 1

24 FEB

LOCATION

MOOT COURT

ECONOMICS BUSINESS AND LAW BUILDING, UNE ARMIDALE

- 10:00 am** **Welcome and Introductions**
Head of School, Prof Cameron Moore, Mrs Nola Holmes
- 10:30 am** **Introduction to MyLearn**
Mrs Nola Holmes
- 11:00 am** **The Structure of the Law Degree**
Dr Kip Werren and Ms Katherine Johnson
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm** **Academic Integrity**
Mr Igor Mescher
- 2:30 pm** **Break**
- 3:00 pm** **How to Write a Law Essay**
Prof Cameron Moore
- 4:00 pm** **Law Library Tour and Legal Research Skills**
Dr Gilbert Meyns, Law Librarian
- 5:00 pm** **Close for the day**
- 6:00 pm** **Dinner with School of Law staff at a local venue**
Pay your own way

SCHEDULE

SCHOOL OF LAW INDUCTION

DAY 2

25 FEB

LOCATION

MOOT COURT

ECONOMICS BUSINESS AND LAW BUILDING, UNE ARMIDALE

9:30 am **How to do a Law Problem Question**
Dr Julia Day and Ms Jordanna D'cruz

10:30 am **Break**

11:00 am **Engagement and Wellbeing**
Dr Kip Werren

12:00 pm **Lunch**

INTRODUCTORY LECTURES

1:00 pm	LAW 100 Foundations of Law	LSU 100 Intro to Legal Studies	LAW 131 Torts
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2:00 pm	BREAK		
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2:30 pm	LAW 101 Law in Context	LAW 162 Criminal Law
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3:30 pm	LAW 102 Legal Professional Skills	LAW 283 Property Law
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4:30 pm **Close for the day**

Law and First Peoples of Australia

Unit Coordinator. Guy Charlton

Credit points: 6

Co-requisites:

(LAW100 or LLM533) and LAW101.

About this unit:

The First Peoples of Australia have a unique position in Australian society as the traditional owners and custodians of land and sea country.

This unit will introduce you to First Peoples systems of law and the interaction between these laws and the Anglo-Australian legal system as well as critically examine the impact of Anglo-Australian law and policies on First Peoples.

You will also explore the complex legal, political, social and cultural factors that contribute to current debates on legal issues of significance to First Peoples and develop skills in cultural competency to assist you to work effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Message from the UC:

I have been working and studying Aboriginal and Indigenous law as a practicing attorney and academic for the past 20 years. I love this area of the law as it includes history, constitutional and natural resources/property law. The students with whom I have worked with over the years have been positive about this unit.

We traverse colonial law and history, Australian governmental policy towards Aboriginal Peoples and modern day issues such as Aboriginal over-incarceration, Native Title and the proposed treaty process.

The assessments for this unit are designed to make you think deeply about the relationship between the law and Aboriginal peoples and how law and policy are intertwined as both a mechanism of control as well as a means by which minority and Aboriginal aspirations and rights are effectuated.

30%

*Reflective journal
(1,000 words)*

60%

Essay (2,000 words)

10%

Online quiz

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Unit Coordinator: Fiona Burns

Credit points: 6

About this unit:

Responding to and successfully resolving disputes is a core skill for lawyers. Skills in dispute resolution add value to your role in a wide range of workplaces. This unit equips you with a thorough understanding of ADR processes both in criminal and civil matters such as arbitration, negotiation, conciliation and mediation. The unit also examines Australian Indigenous Peoples' dispute resolution processes. There are opportunities to critically analyse disputes and evaluate alternatives to litigation. You may build your capabilities in the art of effective listening and negotiating. These are fundamental bases of ADR. These skills are in high demand across many industries.

Message from the UC:

LAW157 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a highly practical and dynamic unit that equips students with essential skills to resolve conflicts effectively in a variety of contexts. In this unit, students will gain a deep understanding of negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, learning how to apply these methods to real-world disputes.

As the Unit Coordinator, I draw on my own legal career spanning over 20 years in both litigation and ADR to help students see how these principles work in real-life scenarios. We examine contemporary local and global events involving conflict, giving students the opportunity to practice their skills in realistic and timely contexts. With the legal profession growing and moving toward ADR more than ever before, this unit is particularly relevant. We spend time comparing ADR to conventional litigation, exploring the strengths and limitations of each approach. Essential skills that students will develop include active listening, empathy, the use of silence, and negotiation techniques.

Through engaging assessments and case studies, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that are invaluable for their future careers. With ADR growing at an unprecedented rate, this unit offers a unique chance to explore cutting-edge approaches to conflict resolution while preparing for the challenges of modern legal and professional environments.

30%

Written assessment
(2,500 words)

60%

Take home exam

10%

Online assessment

Succession

Unit Coordinator: Stephen Janes
Credit points: 6

40%

Viva Voce individual
presentation via
Zoom (2,000 words
equivalent)

60%

Open book exam
(2,000 words)

Pre-requisites:

36cp in Law or candidature in GCTSP or GDTSP.

About this unit:

This unit provides you with a comprehensive insight into succession law. You will gain a broad depth of knowledge in the theory and practice of succession law and be introduced to a range of topics related to wills including testamentary succession, testamentary capacity, knowledge and approval, undue influence, formal requirements, revival and revocation and the construction of wills.

Additionally, you will explore distribution on intestacy, grants of administration and the role of executors and administrators, administration of assets and family provision. Throughout, you will also develop your legal reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Message from the UC:

Succession is about how property passes within families from one generation to the next and the disputes that arise within those families. Today people are dying older and with more wealth. As we die older more issues about our mental competency to make a will emerge. There are more disputes and not just over property but involving matters such as who has the right to bury a loved one. Succession is what most lawyers do as part of busy city, suburban, regional and rural practices. This area is not something you can avoid in your professional or personal lives.



'I gained a better understanding of an area I was already working in, which was incredibly valuable, as it allowed me to apply the legal concepts directly to my work.'

— **Tianaha Willson-Baker**

Succession (continued)

Unit Coordinator: Stephen Janes
Credit points: 6

40%

*Viva Voce individual
presentation via
Zoom (2,000 words
equivalent)*

60%

*Open book exam
(2,000 words)*

Student recommendation:

What I liked about this unit was the relevance of succession law, as an area of law that everyone will eventually encounter in their lives making the content both practical and essential. Dr. Stephen Janes' teaching style and expertise were another highlight. His deep knowledge and clear communication made the topics much easier to understand.

I also appreciated the structure for assessments, most people find a viva-voce assessment daunting, I found this form of assessment more suited to me and my style of learning.

The workload for this unit is very reasonable, Dr Janes provides thorough notes for the topics throughout the unit, which encompass the majority of readings required each week, making for a light reading load which can be supplemented further with the textbook if so desired. This is a great unit to do at the same time as one of the heavier Core units

I chose Wills for my assessment topic, which I enjoyed learning more about. I gained a better understanding of an area I was already working in, which was incredibly valuable, as it allowed me to apply the legal concepts directly to my work.

— Tianaha Willson-Baker



Words from The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Former Justice of
the High Court of
Australia

Respected for his original thinking and willingness to question old approaches, The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG retired from the High Court of Australia in 2009 as Australia's longest serving judge. He was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1962, was called to the Bar in 1967 and entered the judiciary in 1975.

'...luck plays a big part in getting chances to display your skills. But remember *carpe diem*. Always be ready to seize the day.'

As a former High Court Justice, you have had a profound impact on Australian law and society. What advice would you give to law students about how they can leverage their life experience and skills to excel in their studies and future careers?

I studied hard and worked hard to get top academic results, within my skills. I also worked long hours without complaint and sometimes lived off office biscuits! I am not recommending that sacrifice. The bottom line is that you have to work hard and long hours to succeed in the law. And even then, luck plays a big part in getting chances to display your skills. But remember *carpe diem*. Always be ready to seize the day.

How do you think law students can best prepare themselves for a rapidly changing legal landscape, and what skills or knowledge do you consider essential for success?

Law students have to constantly acquaint themselves with fast changing legal doctrine and statute law. There is no substitute for study and application to learning the law. Podcasts and the internet can help to keep you up to date. But problems have to be solved with empathy and understanding. Clients have to be treated with dignity, personal kindness and respect.

Throughout your career, you've worked on many significant cases which have shaped Australian law. What do you believe is the most important quality or characteristic that a lawyer can possess? Please also provide some advice on how law students can seek to develop this quality.

A lawyer has to understand that the profession is not just a mechanical task for applying legal rules. Those rules are often ambiguous. The best lawyers try to turn the ambiguity to the advantage of their clients. This is perfectly lawful. Julius Stone, my teacher, taught that judges and lawyers have "leeways for choice". Because it is not mechanical, the law is potentially a noble profession. We should not be embarrassed to acknowledge this.

What are the most important lessons or takeaways from your experiences on the bench, and how might law students apply these lessons to their own studies and future careers?

Takeaways from the Bench are mentioned in many articles that I have written or speeches I have made. These are on my website: www.michaelkirby.com.au. Both in study, legal practice and on the Bench, I found it useful to encapsulate legal problems in tree diagrams. There is an example of these, taken from my notes of argument in court at page 392 of A.J. Brown's bio: Michael Kirby: Paradoxes/Principles. A tree diagram ensures that you see the main points but also the finer points of the problem at the one time.

What do you believe are the most pressing issues facing the legal profession and society today, and how can law students make a positive impact?

The most pressing issue facing the legal profession is always access to justice. This includes serious cases of injustice where lawyers should sometimes help by pro bono advice. Lawyers should join civil society organisations, such as the Council for Civil Liberties; the IBA; Amnesty International; and Human Rights Watch. Don't just sit there thinking of big bucks. Go out and try to help those who need the assistance of lawyers, including some who cannot afford to pay big fees.

'May I prove to be worthy of the great spirits of the law who have gone before. Of you present who offer me support, love and friendship. And of the people of Australia and our country's challenging future which beckons us to the new millennium - a millennium of justice for all Australians, without discrimination, under the rule of law.'

Remarks on the occasion of His Honour's swearing in and welcome as a Justice of the High Court of Australia, 6 February 1996.

Law Experiential Learning

Unit Coordinators: Kip Werren,
Bronwen Jackman
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

Permission of Head of School; minimum GPA of 5.0; 72cps in Law.

About this unit:

This unit provides you with an opportunity to refine your knowledge of the law or related policy in a practical setting.

With supervision from an experienced academic and plenty of opportunities to reflect on your experience, you have the choice of a range of practical settings. These include, but are not limited to, internship or partnered research involving an industry, community or government partner, clinical legal work or industry placement, team applied research projects, competitions (for example, client interviewing, negotiations, paper presentations, witness examinations) and editing a law journal.

This experiential learning unit will expose you to networking opportunities and help you to develop a range of key skills and knowledge. This includes legal research, presentation and communications skills, alongside professional ethics, teamwork, bargaining, mediation, writing, time management, planning, problem solving and critical thinking.

Message from the UC:

In this unit it is expected that students will exercise independence, initiative, and flexibility. Experiential learning considers errors as an opportunity for learning and for this reason the process of reflection on the whole learning process is crucial.

The reflective journal represents an opportunity to record and reflect on possible errors or successes and the whole learning process and its outcomes. For the oral presentation students present on an area of interest that arises from their placement. The aim is to produce a quality presentation with a clear argument.

50%

Participation
(assessed by
supervisor)

30%

Written reflective
journal (2,000 words
equivalent)

20%

Oral presentation
(2,000 words
equivalent)



*'This subject has been a wonderful practical experience.
I thoroughly enjoyed my time with my supervisor and learned
so much. I will not hesitate in recommending this as a subject.'*

— Former student

Law Experiential Learning (continued)

Unit Coordinators: Kip Werren,
Bronwen Jackman
Credit points: 6

Student recommendation:

LAW306 isn't your typical unit. You find a workplace that is willing to have you for 8–10 hours a week or more, you apply to do the subject and then you work for them, fulfilling the duties you have agreed to. If you are working in the industry already you can use your own workplace, but the tasks you do during your placement hours have to be above and beyond your normal role. This can be difficult to maintain for the trimester in your own workplace.

I really enjoyed the research undertakings and the reflection assignment in this unit. You have a broad scope to work with for the research project. Any topic that arises during your work placement could be a viable topic. I liked the freedom and flexibility I had within the unit to explore an area of interest, even though it was a bit of a challenge to pin down my research topic.

This subject doesn't have a study workload. There are no lectures or tutorials for the subject — just the agreed work hours and the two assessments. All assessments are due later in the trimester.

I did my placement at my workplace with UNE Life in Advocacy & Welfare. My duty statement was to research how to establish a Community Legal Centre (CLC) and develop a business case for legal support for UNE students. During the research phase, family law was identified as the most common legal problem, so I did my research project in this area of law because that seemed more interesting than legal centre stuff I was researching for a project. In hindsight, I might have been better off choosing the CLC research I was doing already for the assessment as well.

— Lara Glasson



'I liked the freedom and flexibility I had within the unit to explore an area of interest, even though it was a bit of a challenge to pin down my research topic.'

— Lara Glasson

50%

Participation
(assessed by
supervisor)

30%

Written reflective
journal (2,000 words
equivalent)

20%

Oral presentation
(2,000 words
equivalent)

Unit Coordinator: Yega Muthu
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

24cp in Law including LAW100 and (LAW251 or LAW351) and LAW340; or candidature in LLM and permission of Head of School.

About this unit:

This unit examines the fundamental principles of income tax law, including capital gains.

You will gain an understanding of the workings and implications of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and cognate legislation such as the Taxation Administration Act 1953 and the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986.

This unit will help you to understand the complexities of how taxation law operates – including the working of the goods and services tax under A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999. You will also explore the principles of statutory interpretation, while developing your legal research, writing and critical thinking skills to benefit your ongoing professional development.

20%

Online assessment
(500 words
equivalent)

60%

Open book exam
(2,000 words)

20%

Problem question
(2,000 words)



A chat with Sharyn Hall SC

Barrister, Samuel
Griffith Chambers

Sharyn Hall SC is a criminal law Barrister who appears as Counsel for prosecution and primarily defence.

Sharyn began practising in 1999, was called to the Bar in 2007 and took silk in 2021. In 2022, Sharyn was appointed to the role of NSW Bar Association LGBTQI Advocate for Change.

Why did you study law?

I studied Graduate law having done an Arts degree with Honours first. I had aspirations to be a barrister but not the marks to get into law straight out of school.

What do you enjoy about your work?

I love the challenge of persuading a jury — or trying to. Everyday is different and there are a broad range of people that I get to engage with.

Can you tell us about your career path after uni?

I worked as a Tipstaff to Justice Virginia Bell in the Supreme Court. I then went to the Western Aboriginal Legal Service based in Dubbo for 3 years.

I came back to Sydney and worked for Legal Aid at Fairfield, Liverpool and Parramatta for another 3 years before I went to the Bar. I have been at the Bar since 2007 and took silk in 2021.

Between 2022-24 I was the NSW Bar Association's LGBTQI Advocate for Change. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with members of the Bar who identify as LGBTQI and our allies. I was impressed by the support I got from both. It is a real eye opener when a Judge tells you "this would have made such a difference to my life when I was at the Bar". I think if nothing else, this shows just how far the Bar has come on diversity and inclusion.

What advice would you give to students thinking about a similar path?

Work in the less glamorous places will usually reward you with more hands-on experience. A path similar to mine suits someone who wants to be on their feet doing advocacy.

What were your study strategies?

Nothing terribly effective...

If you were a student now, which Trimester 1 elective/s might catch your attention?

As a criminal lawyer I'm afraid there aren't too many of those topics catching my attention but since I have taken on work in the criminal jurisdiction of the Land and Environment Court, I'd have to say Water Law and Governance is intriguing. Law and First Peoples of Australia shouldn't be an option — it's shameful that we don't get taught this as a matter of course.

'I'll be honest with you – I struggled with whether I should put my pronouns on my signature block. But ... it's about the people who interact with you. ... I heard a story about someone who was appearing in a Local Court somewhere and they had to send a letter to the registry setting out their story and how they'd like to be addressed and it horrified me, quite frankly, because as individuals we shouldn't have to do this. I don't want to think of practitioners, especially junior practitioners, having to go through the anxiety of wondering, 'Do I have to send a letter to every court I appear in saying that I'm non-binary?'

Extracted from Sharyn Hall SC's interview with Bar News on her appointment to the role of NSW Bar Association LGBTQI Advocate for Change, Summer 2022.

Water Law and Governance

Unit Coordinator: Amy Cosby
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

Any 24 cps.

About this unit:

The increasing severity of droughts show that water is arguably our most precious resource, underscoring the need for effective regulatory and governance regimes.

To achieve sustainability in water management, access and use, the millennium promised a new era in Australian water law for increased intergovernmental cooperation within the Federation.

Today, it remains a significant issue underpinning conflict between rural and urban communities, between States, and between Governments.

This unit introduces you to the key dimensions of water law and governance regimes in New South Wales and the interaction of these with the Commonwealth legal framework.

Emphasis is placed on the Murray–Darling Basin, with a research focus to develop your own critical analysis of water law and associated problems, whether in rural or urban environments.

In doing so, you will gain valuable insights on a highly topical and evolving issue.

30%

Online presentation
(15 minutes)

10%

Online quiz

60%

Take home exam

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 - Graduate and Clerkship Recruitment Programs and information sessions
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 - Student Connect e-newsletter
 - LSJ Online
 - Thriving in Law Guides
- ✓ Tips and advice on applying for graduate and clerkship positions
- ✓ Resume writing and interview guidance and examples
- ✓ Access to a range of Law Society of NSW wellbeing services including our 24/7 confidential phone line

HOW TO APPLY

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or visit lawsociety.com.au/student-registration



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Conveyancing

Unit Coordinator: Paul Akon
Credit points: 6

40%

Written assessment
(2,500 words)

60%

Take home exam

Pre-requisites:

24cp in Law including (LAW282 or LAW283) and (LAW272 or LAW172); or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b - Australian); or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b - non-Australian) and LLM533; or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule c) and 24cp including [LLM533 and (LAW282 or LAW283)].

About this unit:

In this unit you will gain contemporary knowledge of the law and practical implications relating to conveyancing land in New South Wales, covering both Torrens title and old system title conveyancing.

You will examine a range of topics including the formation of the contract, options, auctions, deposit and agents, as well as title issues, error or misdescription, rescission and termination and death, insolvency, possession, insurance and completion.

You will also explore issues such as time for completion, remedies for breach and gain an introduction to eConveyancing. Although aimed at conveyancing in New South Wales, this unit provides a broad understanding of conveyancing law throughout Australia.

Contemporary Issues in Health Law

Unit Coordinator: Sonia Allan

Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

48cp in Law including LAW131 or (LAW231 and LAW232).

About this unit:

Health is a changing landscape which generates profound ethical and legal quandaries. Significant developments in biotechnology over the last three decades, such as assisted reproductive technology, genetic manipulation, organ transplantation and stem cell research, generate wide interest and raise important bioethic questions. As such, legal regulation must respond to such innovations in a measured and ethical manner. This unit explores current issues that arise in the fields of health and biotechnology to consider the legal implications and responses to emerging technology. You will explore these issues and gain valuable insights into the legal issues that are triggered by new technology and ethics in health.

Message from the UC:

This is my first year teaching the subject of Contemporary Issues in Health Law at UNE. I am very much looking forward to it, having spent over 20 years working as an academic with my major focus being health law. This year I have chosen three areas that give rise to contemporary issues in health law. We will explore critical topics over an 11-week period. We start by looking at public health law related matters. The first two weeks will focus on communicable diseases, examining pandemics, epidemics, and HIV/AIDS, and how the law plays a crucial role in protecting the public, preventing disease spread, and ensuring access to treatment.

The next three weeks will look at non-communicable diseases; each week focusing on different issues that give rise to non-communicable diseases — being tobacco, alcohol, and food. This is followed by two weeks in which we delve into surrogacy, with the first week dedicated to domestic regulation and the second to cross-border surrogacy. Finally, we will spend two weeks on examining legal and ethical issues related to genetic testing and preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). Assessments will include short answer questions and two research-based assignments.

30%

Short answer
questions (2,000
words)

50%

Research essay
(2,000 words)

20%

Essay (1,500 words)

Unit Coordinator: *Eric Ghosh*
Credit points: 6

40%
Online quizzes

60%
Take home exam

Pre-requisites:

60cp in Law including LAW101.

Co-requisites:

LAW220 or LAW399.

About this unit:

Gain a thorough introduction to significant theories about law. You will explore legal reasoning (including statutory and constitutional interpretation), the relationship between legal and moral reasoning and the legitimacy of judicial activism.

Your perspective on law will be broadened not only through consideration of theoretical material but also through focusing on other jurisdictions, especially the US. The unit aims to strengthen your skills in legal argumentation, and your analytical and written communication skills. Additionally, you will sharpen your awareness of, and sensitivity to, ethical choices presented by law.

Message from the UC:

Legal philosophy is my research area, and I enjoy introducing students to the ideas of some of the world's most brilliant thinkers on law through select readings of around 23 pages a week. While the readings are not long, students recognise they require some deep thinking. The assessment is four online quizzes and a take-home exam.



'I thought this unit was one of the best I have ever taken at UNE. It was difficult but very rewarding. It was presented extremely well and Eric was able to communicate complex idea[s] in a very effective manner.'

— Former student

Introduction to Transition and Succession Planning

Unit Coordinator: Andrew Lawson

Credit points: 6

40%

Annotated bibliography and written assessment proposal (1,500 words)

60%

Written assignment (3,500 words)

Pre-requisites:

Candidature in postgraduate Law award or MastSciAgr or GradCertAgr (Agricultural Consulting, Sustainable Agriculture or General Production majors).

Note: Undergraduate students enrolled in the Bachelor of Laws may be able to enrol with permission from the School of Law by completing the waiver of prerequisites form.

About this unit:

This unit sets the scene for transition and succession planning. It defines the concept, and explains the scope of the work of professional transition and succession planners.

The unit outlines the contemporary context in Australia, and career pathways for professional transition and succession planners. It covers foundational concepts in law – including the Australian federal structure, the common law, and statutory interpretation – which underpin later law-oriented units. It provides an overview of key issues that are expanded in other units, including appropriate professional communication and counsellor skills, and introductory knowledge of succession law, family law, elder law, gender and other equity concerns in transition and succession planning, as well as business structures, taxation implications and professional ethics.

Message from the UC:

Three things I enjoy about teaching this unit are, firstly, learning from students. Some students in the unit are also professionals in fields that bring them in contact with family businesses and transition and succession (T&S) issues. I learn as much as I teach! Secondly, interviewing experts for the recorded teaching materials – including professional transition and succession planners, lawyers, counsellors, mediators, and academics. All were very generous with their time and enthusiastic.

Introduction to Transition and Succession Planning (continued)

Unit Coordinator: Andrew Lawson
Credit points: 6

40%

Annotated
bibliography and
written assessment
proposal (1,500
words)

60%

Written assignment
(3,500 words)

Thirdly, linking UNE research to teaching. The unit was a serendipitous result of research from an ongoing collaboration between the AgLaw Research Hub at the Law School and UNE Business School colleagues.

The unit scores highly in formal student evaluations and received a 2023 UNE Commendation for 'an outstanding result in overall satisfaction'. There is a fair bit of flexibility for students to choose assessment questions related to the unit topics they are most interested in personally or professionally. Some are more theoretical – e.g. around forecasting big picture global and national trends affecting T&S planning – and some are more practically oriented – such as stamp duty and the distribution of property on divorce.



'I really enjoyed learning about each different area related to transition and succession planning and the 'Flavour of..' weeks were really useful. I especially liked the ability to choose the topic that I wrote my assignments on. I feel that I learnt enough to understand each area that was new to me and enjoyed being able to really deep dive into my topic of interest. I appreciated the amount of explanation given concerning expectations for the assignments and the feedback I received was also really helpful.'

— Former student

Note: The 'Flavour of ...' topics are short overviews of other units taught at UNE relevant to T&S Planning – e.g. Succession Law, Family Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Business Structures.



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KEY DATES

**FEB
24**

T1 starts

Monday 24 February 2025

**MAR
3**

Last day to add units

Monday 3 March 2025 (Week 2)

**MAR
24**

Census Date

Monday 24 March 2025 (Week 5) – this is the last day to withdraw without paying for the unit

**APR
4–22**

Mid-trimester intensive and assessment period

Friday 4 April–Tuesday 22 April 2025 (Weeks 7 & 8)

**APR
28**

Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Monday 28 April 2025 (Week 10) – if you withdraw by this date you avoid a ‘fail’ but must pay for the unit

KEY DATES

**MAY
26**

**End-of-trimester intensive
and assessment period starts**

Monday 26 May 2025

**JUN
1**

T1 ends

Sunday 1 June 2025

**JUN
13**

Last day for release of T1 results

Friday 13 June

Looking ahead...

**JUN
23**

T2 starts

Monday 23 June 2025

Official UNE Calendar:

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/principal-dates/principal-dates-2025>

CONVINCE ME

IS SOUP A DRINK OR A MEAL?



Soup is a ... meal! Because most of the time it requires chewing, and that means you're eating it rather than drinking it.

Laura Barnfield

Bowl or cup, it's all about chewability. Bloody Mary or gazpacho - drink. Caesar with a prawn - meal.

Luke Pegler

I would say that soup is a meal, because it quite often needs to be consumed with utensils such as a fork or chopsticks (think ramen, wonton soup, laksa). Miso soup could be a valid exception however, as miso is often served as a drink as well.

Victoria Vivente

Soup is obviously only a drink!! It is a mere palate teaser to other culinary delights such as a delicious lobster mornay or a fabulous bowl of hot chips!!!

Dr Julia Day

To me soup is a meal. I have Italian heritage; we call it Minestrone. It is full of lovely chunky vegetables, and maybe even a bit of pasta!

Prof Sonia Allan

CONVINCE ME

IS SOUP A DRINK OR A MEAL?



Juggling a law degree with work and volunteer commitments, and mum life, means soup is whatever I determine it to be based on the mood and time of day/year, and the effort required!

Kristie Walmsley

Soup is a meal because whenever I've said I'm thirsty, no one has ever responded with 'well have a cup of soup'.

Pippa Duniam

Soup, in my opinion, is most definitely a meal. Who doesn't love a good Laska. While some may argue soup is a drink, supported through 'cup-o-soup' marketing, I am yet to go to a bar and be able to order a soup during happy hour.

Dean Shiner

When you have sensitive teeth and the weather is very hot in summer, the soup is definitely a drink! All you do is gulp and slurrpp!



Dr Imelda Deinla

My answer is simple... I'm studying law, so the answer depends on the majority.

Daniel Iannazzo

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

SARAH JOHNSON

A bit about me...

I am a mature aged student studying the Bachelor of Laws. Stepping forward into a legal orbit is a big change from the sphere of Literature/Librarianship where I have been circling.

Top study tip?

Do the work and you are sure to succeed. Read the readings, attend the tutorials and allow plenty of time for your assignments. This may seem like an impossible feat, so time manage as best you can.

All-time favourite unit?

One of my favourites has been Contract Law. The cohort of students seemed to communicate well as a group. There is certainty in a written contract, other types of agreements are less definite, but negotiating can be fun.

Something I wish I knew sooner...

Starting study either straight out of school or later in life is the right time of you. Everything you learn will come in handy, one way or another.

Is soup a drink or a meal?

Depends, if it is cold soup or hot soup – cold soup is an entrée, hot soup with toast is a meal.

TIANAHA WILLSON-BAKER

A bit about me...

I'm a crazy scattered ADHDer, and your friendly LSS Secretary.

Top study tip?

Find what works for you! We all learn differently, so try different methods until you find yours.

All-time favourite unit?

I don't have one "all-time favourite" unit. I have done a few units which I have enjoyed a lot more than others, often the units that are taught a bit differently to the norm I find I enjoy a lot more.

Something I wish I knew sooner...

Take your time, you don't need to rush. It doesn't matter how long it takes to get there. It's not worth sacrificing all other aspects of your life just to get it done.

Is soup a drink or a meal?

A meal. It usually has chunky bits, therefore a meal, or a starter. Definitely not a drink.

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SAMIRA TABBIT
LSS TREASURER

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Sincerely,

Samira Tabbitt

Treasurer

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'... in any new matter of morals the law should be slow to act. By the next generation the swell of indignation may have abated and the law be left without the strong backing which it needs. But it is then difficult to alter the law without giving the impression that moral judgement is being weakened.'

— Lord Devlin, 'The Enforcement of Morals' (Speech, Maccabean Lecture in Jurisprudence, 18 March 1959) 145

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