

## Course Outline

**Code: LAW441**

**Title: Law Honours Thesis**

<b>School:</b>	Law and Criminology
<b>Teaching Session:</b>	Semester 2
<b>Year:</b>	2020
<b>Course Coordinator:</b>	Professor Jay Sanderson
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<b>Phone No:</b>	+61 7 5456 5294
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jsander4@usc.edu.au">jsander4@usc.edu.au</a>
<b>Course Moderator:</b>	Dale Mitchell
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Please go to the USC website 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 is required for students wishing to graduate with honours in Law. You will conduct a research project that examines a specific question and make an original or innovative contribution to an area of law. You will complete a research paper of 10,000 words on an approved topic supervised by a member of academic staff. As well as developing your knowledge in a selected area of law you will apply advanced research methods and skills, plan and conduct a research project, profit from individual feedback on your work, develop self-management skills, and communicate effectively in writing.

#### 1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
N/A	N/A

### 2. What level is this course?

400 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 4th 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?

<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b> On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	<b>Assessment tasks</b> You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	<b>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</b> Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Complete the management of an original research project under broad direction.	1	Engaged.
Apply appropriate research methods to address complex legal research issues.	1	Empowered.
Demonstrate advanced learning and understanding in an area of law.	1	Knowledgeable.
Critically review, analyse and synthesise knowledge to develop new understandings.	1	Creative and critical thinkers.
Exercise critical thinking and judgment to generate appropriate responses to complex legal issues.	1	Creative and critical thinkers.
Work independently and make use of feedback to support your professional and/ or academic development.	1	Empowered.
Communicate effectively in writing for a professional and /or academic audience.	1	Empowered.

#### 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

##### 5.1 Enrolment restrictions

This course is available only to students enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws program who have been invited to enrol in Law Honours based on a minimum GPA of 6 in their Law-coded courses.

##### 5.2 Pre-requisites

LAW440

##### 5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

##### 5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

##### 5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

#### 6. How am I going to be assessed?

##### 6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

## 6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Students receive ongoing feedback and support by assigned thesis supervisors for the duration of both LAW440 and LAW441.

## 6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Thesis	Individual	100%	8000 to 10000 words	Friday, Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

### Assessment 1: Law Honours Thesis

<b>Goal:</b>	The goal of the thesis is to communicate effectively to a professional and/or academic audience the results of a research project into a defined research question on a legal topic. Students are expected to present a reasoned and substantiated argument that critically analyses and consolidates legal knowledge and ideas, and applies this to their research question/s.
<b>Product:</b>	Thesis
<b>Format:</b>	This is an individual assessment of 8,000 to 10,000 words.
<b>Criteria:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced and integrated knowledge of an area of the law;</li> <li>• Understanding of the issues raised thorough legal and associated research;</li> <li>• Critical thinking, judgment and analysis;</li> <li>• Comprehensive and appropriate use and application of research to law;</li> <li>• Ability to review, analyse and synthesise information in a critical and logical manner;</li> <li>• Clear and coherent communication of research questions, laws and supporting arguments;</li> <li>• Originality and significance in content and argument;</li> <li>• Style guide compliance including appropriate referencing.</li> </ul>

## 7. Directed study hours

**This course will be delivered via technology-enabled learning and teaching. All lectures will remain in this mode for Semester 2 2020. When government guidelines allow, students that elected on-campus study via the class selection process will be advised when on campus tutorials and practical sessions will resume.**

You will arrange to meet, and meet, with your supervisor at least fortnightly. You will also attend as directed by the Honours Coordinator for thesis-related presentations.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

### **8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader**

Nil

### **8.2 Specific requirements**

Nil

## **9. How are risks managed in this course?**

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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 Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

### **10.2 Assessment: Submission penalties**

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

### **10.3 Study help**

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)

#### 10.4 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or [accessability@usc.edu.au](mailto:accessability@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226

#### 10.5 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
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

#### 10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)