



# ELECTIVES GUIDE

SUMMER 2019 & SEMESTER 1 2020

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# ELECTIVES GUIDE 2020

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Please note the information contained in this guide has been compiled from the University of Tasmania's online course and unit guide information for ease of access for students. For further information, go to <http://www.utas.edu.au/law/left-quick-links/information-for-students>.

# Responding to Family Violence Realities

LAW479

UNIT COORDINATOR: DR CAROLINE SPIRANOVIC

TEACHING STAFF: DR CAROLINE SPIRANOVIC & CHRISTINA HUDSON

## TEACHING PATTERN

SUMMER SCHOOL: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 16th February 2020

Unit is delivered fully online

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

Responding to Family Violence Realities is an applied multidisciplinary unit which aims to promote a deeper and more comprehensive analysis of the range of behaviours that may comprise family violence, different perspectives on the causes of and solutions to family violence and contemporary legal and other system responses to family violence.

This unit has a practical application and the unit draws together academic/empirical literature, legislation, practice, policy, and problem-solving scenarios. There is a special focus throughout the unit on issues of vulnerability and diversity as well as non-stereotypical, new and emerging forms of family violence. The teaching staff for this unit have expertise in criminology, psychology and criminal law.

## TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED

No textbooks required for this unit.

## ASSESSMENT

Quiz (5%)

600 word written reflection (10%)

1200 word briefing paper (25%)

1500 word enquiry submission (35%)

Discussion board contributions (25%)

# Biotechnology Law

LAW626

PROFFESOR DIANNE NICOL  
PROFFESSOR DON CHALMERS

## TEACHING PATTERN

**SUMMER SCHOOL: 28th January – 14th February**

**3 hours of seminars Monday to Friday.**

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

The unit develops an understanding of the legal and ethical regulation of biotechnology research and commercialisation and practice. Both medical and agricultural biotechnology are covered. The unit aims to: raise awareness of major areas of the substantive law affecting biotechnology; develop understanding of the implications of current developments in the regulation of biotechnology for public and private sector researchers, industry, government and individuals; encourage critical thinking about the law relating to biotechnology; and develop the ability to solve legal problems involving biotechnology.

## TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED

No textbooks required for this unit

## ASSESSMENT

2500 word written assignment (40%)

2500 word joint submission (40%)

Class participation and reflection (20%)

# Dispute Resolution

LAW640

DR OLIVIA RUNDLE

## TEACHING PATTERN

**SEMESTER 1**

**2-3 hours of face-to-face workshops per week**

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces law students to a variety of non-judicial dispute resolution processes. This unit introduces students to the theories, principles, practices and laws relating to dispute resolution. It covers a variety of dispute resolution methods including negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. Students will examine how these processes are used in different contexts within Australian jurisdictions and internationally. By the end of the unit, students should have an improved understanding about the circumstances in which dispute resolution options are appropriate and an ability to match disputes to process options.

Students will also engage in practical training in various dispute resolution skills. Skills of problem solving, reflective practice, conflict management, collaboration and dispute resolution will be encouraged through group learning experiences. There will be an opportunity to role play different participants in dispute resolution processes, including parties, lawyers, third parties and observers.

This unit provides an opportunity for law students to develop an understanding about the place of dispute resolution in modern legal practice. Students will have the opportunity to think critically about the implications of non-judicial dispute resolution processes for the law, litigation and the legal profession. This unit compliments the compulsory units of the law degree, which emphasise the legal perspective of dispute and judicial methods of dispute resolution. This unit develops knowledge and skills that must be used by lawyers in conjunction with legal analysis and adversarial advocacy. It also advances students' achievement of the Threshold Learning Outcomes for Law (TLOs).

## TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED

TBA

## ASSESSMENT

Portfolio of related work  
(50%)

Research essay (50%)

# Media Law

LAW652

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HEATHER FORREST

## TEACHING PATTERN

**SEMESTER 1**

**3 x 1 hour lectures per week; 1 hour fortnightly seminar**

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit investigates the common law and statutory controls over the broadcasting, print and online media in Australia. The unit examines legal and economic aspects of the regulatory regimes which apply to the media, including issues of licensing, ownership and control. Legal controls on the content of media, including those imposed by the laws of defamation, contempt, privacy and censorship are examined in the context of the democratic notion of freedom of speech.

## TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED

No textbooks required for this unit.

## ASSESSMENT

2500 word research project (60%)

1 x seminar delivery (40%)

# Environmental Law

LAW641

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN RICHARDSON

## TEACHING PATTERN

**SEMESTER 1**

**2 x 1 hour lecture per week; 1 hour fortnightly tutorial**

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

This foundational environmental law unit provides the core of UTAS's environmental law program. The unit caters both to students seeking a concise introduction to the subject-matter, as part of a well-rounded legal education for professional practice, as well as students seeking to specialise in this growing and substantial area of law, for which Environmental Law (LAW641) provides the starting point.

The unit introduces the principal components of Australian (federal) environmental regulation and policy, with some consideration of equivalent state regimes (mainly Tasmania). The unit is structured around several key themes: why does environmental law exist (ie, what problems does it respond to and what ideas shape that response); the actors (the "who") of environmental law, notably states, NGOs and Aboriginal peoples; the sources (the "where") of environmental law, spanning the common law, public legislation and international law; and the tools (the "how") of environmental law, such as command-and-control and economic instruments. The course concludes with two case studies, on climate change law and biodiversity conservation law, which offer more in-depth analysis of the main themes of the syllabus. Major issues in environmental law and policy are brought to life in the classroom via videos, role-plays, lively discussion, negotiation exercises and scenarios drawn from topical environmental controversies.

## TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED

N/A

## ASSESSMENT

Class participation (20%)

Coursework (30%)

Final Exam (50%)

# Supervised Research Paper

LAW679

STAFF: VARIOUS

\*THIS UNIT WILL BE COUNTED AS A MAJOR RESEARCH COMPONENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF HONOURS\*

## TEACHING PATTERN

- Semester One or Two
- Consultation between student and supervising staff member

## UNIT DESCRIPTION

Allows students to undertake a sustained piece of research under the supervision of a member of staff. There are no classes; teaching takes place through the interaction between the student and staff member. Students select their own research topic in consultation with, and subject to the approval of, a staff member. The work must be completed during the semester in which the student is enrolled.

Students will work on a one-on-one basis with their supervisor and should negotiate at the start of semester how the supervisor will support their learning. This agreement may include:

- Supervisor's expectations
- When and how meetings will occur
- When and how drafts should be submitted
- Format of supervisor's feedback

All members of academic staff at the Law School are active researchers and bring this experience to their role as supervisor.

*Students must have a Distinction grade average in their law units (Law-only GPA of 6 or more) to be eligible for enrolment in this unit. Under the Honours degree rules, students must complete LAW679 in order to be eligible to graduate with first class Honours.*

## ASSESSMENT

14,000 word research paper  
(inclusive of references)



# Honours

## New Honours System

HONOURS COORDINATOR: DR PHILLIPA MCCORMACK

### WILL THE NEW HONOURS RULES APPLY TO ME?

If you were enrolled in a Level 200 LAWXXX unit in 2015 for the first time **and** enrolled in a law degree at that time (or in a later year), the new honours rules will apply. For example, if you were enrolled in law in 2015 or later and undertook Legal Reasoning and/or Foundations of Private Law in that year these rules will apply to you.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. COMPLETION OF HONOURS RESEARCH METHODS (LAH401)

This unit is conducted online, sits outside of the degree structure (i.e. it does not take up an elective slot) and should be taken either the semester before or concurrently with the major research component. See below for more details.

#### 2. ACHIEVEMENT OF GPA

Only law units are included (except for LAW121, LAW122, LAW455 and the major research component LAHXXX). First class Honours: 6; second uppers: 5.7; second lowers: 5.4.

#### 3. COMPLETION OF A MINOR RESEARCH COMPONENT IN A LAWXXX UNIT

This is an elective unit taken in final or penultimate year that is identified as an honours unit. At least 50% of the assessment will be by assignment and the assignment will be at least 2,000 words.

#### 4. COMPLETION OF A MAJOR RESEARCH COMPONENT IN A LAHXXX UNIT

This is an elective unit taken in final year only. First Class Honours students must take LAH679 Supervised Research Paper (see page 11 for details). Second Class Honours students must take an elective unit that has a 5000 word research paper: contact both the unit and Honours Coordinators to notify them of your intention and, upon acknowledgement from the Honours Coordinator, enroll in LAH6XX Honours Research Paper.

### LAH401 HONOURS RESEARCH METHODS

This unit is conducted entirely online and is designed to assist students to advance an independent research project (either the 14,000 word paper for LAH679 or the 5000 word paper required for other LAHXXX units). The unit will:

- Introduce students to a range of different research paradigms and methodologies

- Encourage students to question the role and relevance of legal research and scholarship and how their project might add to the field
- Assist students to plan a strong research project and communicate that project clearly
- Provide practical tips on writing and advancing scholarly argument
- Help students identify potential ethical issues and possible publications and other dissemination outlets

Assessment Tasks:

- Research proposal
- Research journal

For more information, contact Dr Phillipa McCormack: [phillipa.mccormack@utas.edu.au](mailto:phillipa.mccormack@utas.edu.au)

## ADMISSION INTO HONOURS

Students will be invited to participate in the honours program towards the end of the penultimate year of study. Because this only occurs at the end of the penultimate year, students will need to be aware of whether they are on track for honours before invitation and plan elective unit selection accordingly. Students with a GPA of 5.2 at the end of the penultimate year will be invited to join the Second Class Honours program, and those with 5.8 will be invited to join the First Class Honours program. These numbers are slightly lower than what is required to graduate with honours: the margin takes into account those students whose grades improve over their final year.

**If you think you are on track to get honours, you must check your UTAS email in late November-December. If you don't receive an email and believe you are eligible, contact [Law.Enquiries@utas.edu.au](mailto:Law.Enquiries@utas.edu.au).** Failure to be admitted will see you unable to participate in the honours program. You must initiate the admission process in the honours Degree Course. Once admitted, there will be some additional paperwork that must be completed, available through the Student eCentre.

# Honours

## Old Honours System

HONOURS COORDINATOR: DR PHILLIPA MCCORMACK

Unit Weight	Points Earned	Points Deducted for Failure
25% (full year)	HD = 6; DN = 4	-4
12.5% (one semester)	HD = 3; DN = 2	-2

### CALCULATION OF HONOURS POINTS

Eight points must come from core units. LAW121 and LAW122 results are not included in calculating honours points. No excess electives will be counted.

### FIRST CLASS HONOURS REQUIREMENTS

- 42 honours points in law units
- Minimum 6 HD results in law units
- 25% research component: two 12.5% research units, one of which must be LAW679
- DN grade average for research component

### SECOND CLASS HONOURS - UPPER REQUIREMENTS

- 32 honours points in law units
- 25% research component: two 12.5% research units
- CR grade average for research component

### SECOND CLASS HONOURS - LOWER REQUIREMENTS

- 24 honours points in law units
- 25% research component: two 12.5% research units
- CR grade average for research component