SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

For more information please refer to the individual subject guides and the Course Materials section on the Law Extension Committee Webcampus.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

01 Legal Institutions
The course introduces students to the origins, history and present operation of the institutions which make up the Australian legal system, to the sources of law, and to the Commonwealth and New South Wales constitutions.

02 Criminal Law and Procedure
This course provides the student with an understanding of the general principles of criminal law, together with a detailed knowledge of the application of these principles in respect of major crimes and defences.

03 Torts
A tort is a civil wrong which results in physical or psychiatric injury, property damage or financial loss to another or by which another’s legal rights are infringed.

04 Contracts
The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the basic principles of contract law. The course covers the elements of formation of contracts, contractual capacity, terms of a contract, matters affecting consent to a contract, discharge of contracts, remedies, illegality and privity of contract.

05 Real Property
Real Property is concerned with the law relating to interests in land.

06 Australian Constitutional Law
Australian constitutional law is a branch of public law which focuses upon the primary source of that law in the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900 (Imp).

07 Equity
Equity, which includes the law of trusts, begins with a study of the historical origins and development of the equitable jurisdiction and then moves on to consider equitable doctrines.

08 Commercial Transactions
This course is about buying and selling personal property, and some aspects of securities over and payments for personal property.

09 Administrative Law
Administrative law is a branch of public law which is concerned with the legal control of decisions and actions of governmental agencies and officials, and those of non-governmental bodies which affect the public.

10 Law of Associations
Law of Associations is a description of some of the laws which regulate associations of individuals.

11 Evidence
The Evidence course is devoted to an examination of the rules governing the presentation of evidence in common law trials, both civil and criminal. The central focus of the course is on the provisions of the Evidence Act 1995.

The matters considered include the manner and form in which evidence can be presented to the court, the matters which are susceptible of proof as defined by the inclusionary and exclusionary rules, and the tests to be applied in determining whether sufficient evidence has been introduced.

12 Taxation and Revenue Law
The Taxation and Revenue Law course is an overview of the Income Tax Assessment Act and related legislation.

13 Succession
The law of succession is concerned with the law of wills and the administration of deceased estates.
14 Conveyancing
Conveyancing practice requires an understanding of Real Property and Planning Law. The course is designed to provide the theoretical and practical foundations of conveyancing practice. Particular emphasis is placed on the structure of the current edition of the Contract for Sale of Land.

15 Practice and Procedure
The subject of Practice and Procedure deals with the day to day practicalities of civil litigation in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

17 Legal Ethics
The objectives of the course are to give the student a sound background of the statute, common law and rules and regulations which govern professional practice as a barrister or solicitor; and to provide guidance as to what can go wrong, how to recognise a problem, and what help is available, and what may occur where there has been an ethical breach.

24 Jurisprudence
This course in jurisprudence will apply the concepts and techniques of philosophical analysis to an examination of the nature of law and issues surrounding legal reasoning, and the relationship between law, morals and theories of justice.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

16 Insolvency
The course covers both personal insolvency and corporate insolvency. The first half of the course is personal insolvency, governed by the Bankruptcy Act.

The second half of the course covers corporate insolvency, governed by the Corporations Act.

18 Conflict of Laws
Conflict of laws, or private international law, is the part of private law concerned with legal questions which contain a foreign element.

The course objective is to give you an opportunity to gain an appreciation and understanding of the transnational dimension of private law and the fact that many legal questions which arise in everyday life are not confined within one legal system.

19 Family Law
This course is designed to provide students with a general yet comprehensive introduction to family law in Australia.

20 Local Government and Planning
The Local Government and Planning course examines the bodies of law which regulate the establishment, status, powers, operation and accountability of local councils and the environmental and planning laws which regulate the use of land.

The overall aim of the local government and planning course is to enable students through lectures, study and practical course exercises to explore and understand the wide variety of laws under which councils operate as regulators and providers of vital services to their communities.

21 Industrial Law
The Industrial Law course is a general introduction to industrial law, having the primary objective of introducing students to the system of conciliation and arbitration which operates in Australia, and the common law duties imposed on both employers and employees.

22 Intellectual Property
The law of intellectual property encompasses the areas of copyright, design, circuit layouts, patent, plant variety rights, confidentiality information, business reputation and trade marks. The course provides a general introduction to intellectual property outlining for each category of protection how the rights arise, the nature of the rights, ownership and exploitation as well as infringement and remedies.

23 Public International Law
Public international law is the regime of legal rules which primarily seeks to regulate relations between sovereign states. This course is a general introduction to the sources and techniques of public international law with the objective of imparting to you an appreciation and understanding of the role of legal rules in regulating the conduct of states and individuals in international society.
25 Competition and Consumer Law

The Competition and Consumer Act (2011), incorporating the Australian Consumer Law, has a significant impact on every aspect of commerce and consumerism in Australia. The course complements the other commercial subjects by covering the restrictive trade practices (e.g. misuse of market power, exclusive dealing, resale price maintenance, cartels etc), deceptive trade practices (unconscionable conduct, misleading and deceptive conduct), product liability, enforcement and remedies (damages and other orders etc.) provisions of the Act.

26 Understanding Legal Language and Legislation

This elective focuses on the core skill of statutory interpretation, and allows students to develop and build their understanding of how to interpret legislation. As legislation needs to be read in context, and as understanding legislation requires a thorough knowledge of the grammatical tools employed by the legislative drafter, completion of the Language Skills for Lawyers Course (see right) is strongly recommended. Students who have not already completed the course, may do it at the same time as this elective. The course also includes an opportunity for students to refresh their legal research skills. In hands on classes students will learn how to find extrinsic materials, and consider their use; research the changing history of legislation and consider why this is important in statutory interpretation; and learn how to use research tools to locate words, phrases and sections which have been the subject of prior judicial consideration. The course will examine the common law and statutory principles of interpretation, and practice the application of these skills.

Language Skills for Lawyers Course

This course of two lectures is designed for students who would like to improve the way they write, to be more precise in their language and to learn the basis of traditional grammar and punctuation. The course is for students who would like to improve their written expression in English by constructing phrases, clauses and sentences more accurately and effectively.

The first lecture will concentrate on basic language categories, i.e., parts of speech, grammar and syntax and simple punctuation. The second lecture will continue with examples of English sentence structure ranging from simple to complex which the students will then parse and analyse. Further language work in analysis is available on request in tutorials after each lecture.

Language, Law and Latin Course

This is a special language course for those students interested in understanding Latin legal terminology. The course will not be restricted to legal terms but will provide an overview of the Latin language, a description of its historical importance in law and a better understanding of Latin legal terms and expressions in English and Australian law.

1. The first lecture will provide an overview of Latin and English historically, the basis for Latin as the language of law and an overview of Latin as an inflected language, including declensions and conjugations. Legal prepositional phrases will be explained. Students will be encouraged to translate simple sentences.

2. The second lecture will complete the overview of Latin as an inflected language with its basic parts of speech and sentence structure. Examples of increasingly complex sentence structure will be shown and explained. Reference will also be made to important examples from classical orators, particularly Cicero's influence in structuring legal argument.