



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	1003CCJ
Course Name:	Law, Government & Policy
Trimester:	Trimester 3, 2019
Program:	Diploma of Criminology & Criminal Justice
	In Person
	Mt Gravatt/Gold Coast
Credit Points:	10
Course Coordinator:	Greg Stevenson
Document modified:	14 October 2019

Course Description

This course introduces key ideas and institutions associated with law and its production in Australia. It examines how law is made by courts and parliaments, and the principal legal and political conventions and processes involved in law making. This knowledge provides a foundation for further study on criminal law and justice systems.

This is a core, introductory course in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. It gives students an overview of the role of law in Australian society, and how it is made, influenced and applied by courts and by governments. These concepts and processes are an essential framework for the criminal justice system and knowledge developed in this course provides a foundation for later studies in criminology and criminal justice, and for employment in the field.

The central focus of the course is on examining how law and politics operate and interact in society. The relationship between concepts like rules, morality, justice, politics and power are also examined. Students think critically about the law-making process, and consider diverse issues including: the moral content of laws; liberalism, legalism and the rule of law; the role of judges; indigenous rights

and justice; the nature of democracy; the exercise and control of government power; and human rights. This is done through the use of case studies to encourage a problem-based approach to learning.

The course also has a strong focus on skill development for both academic and vocational purposes, especially research, writing and critical analysis.

Assumed Knowledge

There is no assumed knowledge associated with this course.

1.2 Teaching Team

Your lecturer/tutor can be contacted via the email system on the portal.

Name	Email
Greg Stevenson	greg.stevenson@staff.griffithcollege.edu.au
Ingrid McGuffog	Ingrid.mcguffog@staff.griffithcollege.edu.au

1.3 Staff Consultation

Your lecturer/tutor is available each week for consultation outside of normal class times. Times that your lecturer/tutor will be available for consultation will be given in the first week of lectures. A list of times and rooms will be published on the Griffith College Portal under the "Support and Services/Teacher Consultation Times" link.

1.4 Timetable

Your timetable is available on the Griffith College Portal at Class Timetable in Student and Services.

1.5 Technical Specifications

All students must have access to a computer or suitable mobile device.

2. Aims, Outcomes & Generic Skills

2.1 Course Aims

This is a core, introductory course in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. It aims to 1) give an overview of the role of law and politics in Australian society; 2) consider the relationship between law and politics, particularly how law is influenced and applied by courts and by governments in a range of contexts; and 3) encourage critical thinking about the law-making process and its relationship with criminal justice, using case studies as the basis for a problem-based learning approach.

The central focus of the course is on examining how law operates in society, and its relationship with concepts like rules, morality, justice, politics and power. The course also has a strong focus on skill development for both academic and vocational purposes, especially research, writing and critical analysis. On completion of this course students should be able to write clearly and analytically in appropriate academic style and engage in informed and reflective discussion about issues raised in the course.

2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

1. Describe key institutions involved in making and influencing laws in Australia
2. Explain principles and theories underlying Australian law and government
3. Explain constraints on efficient and effective law making in Australia
4. Critique the operation and fairness of law and government
5. Describe key political institutions and processes in the Australian context, and compare these with other systems internationally
6. Explain how institutions and processes of law and politics are relevant to the operation of the criminal justice system throughout Australia
7. Communicate clearly and coherently using oral and written language

2.3 Generic skills

For further details on the Generic Skills please refer to the Graduate Generic Skills and Capabilities policy.

Griffith College aims to develop graduates who have an open and critical approach to learning and a capacity for lifelong learning. Through engagement in their studies, students are provided with opportunities to begin the development of these and other generic skills.

Studies in this course will give you opportunities to begin to develop the following skills:

Generic Skills	Taught	Practised	Assessed
Written Communication	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oral Communication			
Information Literacy		Yes	Yes
Secondary Research	Yes	Yes	Yes
Critical and Innovative Thinking		Yes	
Academic Integrity		Yes	Yes
Self Directed Learning	Yes	Yes	
Team Work			
Cultural Intelligence		Yes	
English Language Proficiency		Yes	Yes

3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required Text

Drum, M. & Tate, J. W. (2012). *Politics in Australia*. South Yarra, Vic: Palgrave Macmillan.

3.2 Recommended Resources

A range of recommended resources are published via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal. Further information relating to these resources will be provided in class.

3.3 College Support Services and Learning Resources

The College provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about College support resources that are available to students are included below for easy reference.

[Digital Library](#) – Databases to which Griffith College students have access to through the Griffith Library Databases.

MyStudy – there is a dedicated website for this course via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal.

[Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) - this tutorial helps students to understand what academic integrity is and why it matters. You will be able to identify types of breaches of academic integrity, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

Services and Support provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling; Academic support; and Welfare support.

Jobs and Employment in the [Student Hub](#) can assist students with career direction, resume and interview preparation, job search tips, and more.

[IT Support](#) provides details of accessing support, information on s numbers and internet access and computer lab rules.

3.4 Other Learning Information

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and to actively engage in learning during these sessions. You are expected to bring all necessary learning resources to class such as the required textbook and /or Workbook. In addition, you may BYOD (bring your own device) to class such as a laptop or tablet. This is not a requirement as computer lab facilities are available on campus, however, the use of such devices in the classroom is encouraged with appropriate and considerate use principles being a priority.

Preparation and Participation in Class

In order to enhance learning, prepare before lectures and tutorials. Read the relevant section of your text book before a lecture, and for a tutorial read both the textbook and the relevant lecture notes. If you have been given tutorial exercises, make sure you complete them. Active participation in lectures and tutorials will improve your learning. Ask questions when something is unclear or when you want to bring some issue to your lecturer or tutor's attention; respond to questions to test your knowledge and engage in discussion to help yourself and others learn.

Consultation Sessions

Teachers offer extra time each week to assist students outside the classroom. This is known as 'consultation time.' You may seek assistance from your teacher on email or in person according to how the teacher has explained this to the class. Attendance during consultation time is optional but you are encouraged to use this extra help to improve your learning outcomes.

Course Materials

Lecture notes will be made available to you in MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal and you are advised to either print these out and bring them to each class so that extra notes can be added or BYOD (bring your own device) and add extra notes digitally.

Self-Directed Learning

You will be expected to learn independently. This means you must organise and learn the course content even when you are not specifically asked to do so by your lecturer or tutor. This involves revising the weekly course material. It also means you will need to find additional information for some assessment items beyond that given to you in textbooks and lecture notes, and to construct your own response to a question or topic. All of this requires careful planning of your time. Expect to spend, on average, at least 10 hours per week including class time for each of your courses.

Program Progression

You are reminded that satisfactory Program Progression requires that attendance in classes is maintained at equal to or greater than 80%, and that GPA is maintained at equal to or greater than 3.5 [please see Griffith College Policy Library - Program Progression Policy - for more information].

Teacher and course Evaluation

Your feedback is respected and valued by your lecturers and tutors. You are encouraged to provide your thoughts on the course and teaching, both positive and critical, directly to your lecturer and tutor or by completing course and lecturer evaluations via Griffith College's evaluation tool whenever these are available.

4. Learning and Teaching Activities

4.1 Weekly Learning Activities

Week	Topic	Activity	Readings	Learning Outcomes
1	Introduction: the idea and role of law: * What is law and what is its relationship with morality, justice, and society? * What is politics (theories/institutions) and what is its relationship with law? * How is this all relevant to criminology and criminal justice? * Tips for studying this course.	Lecture	Text Introduction (pp. xvi - xx)	1,2,3,4,6,7
2	Law and Government in Australia: * House of Representatives and Senate * State vs Federal Parliaments * Elections * What is the Executive government? * Introduction to the Constitution and federal division of powers	Lecture	Origins of the Australian Legal System (pp. 23-31)	1,2,3,4,6,7
3	Federalism: * Which governments make which laws, and why? * State and federal governments * Federalism and its problems * Fiscal, cooperative and coercive federalism	Lecture	Text Chapter 4	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
4	Elections & political parties: * Who gets into government and how? * Electoral systems and their significance. * Parties and their significance. A two party system?	Lecture	Text Chapters 5 & 6	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
5	Interest groups and media: * What are other ways law-making is influenced? * External influences on government and policy	Lecture	Text Chapters 11 & 12	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
6	Political Theories and Institutions: * Principles of democracy * Principles of liberalism * Institutions of government and pressures for change * The High Court as a political institution * How do governments and politics affect law?	Lecture	Text Chapters 1 & 2	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

7	<p>The Constitution and the High Court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What is in the Constitution and why does it matter? * Role of the Constitution - main provisions & problems * Meaning of the Constitution and how it changes * What is not in the Constitution? * The High Court as a political institution 	Lecture	Text Chapter 3	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
8	<p>What is justice?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What is justice and who has access to it? * Legal aid and access to justice * Justice, law, and morality * Justice and politics * Justice and the criminal justice system 	Lecture	Chisholm, R., & Nettheim, G. (2002). Due process of law . <i>Understanding law: an introduction to Australia's legal system</i> (6th ed., pp. 115-125). Sydney: LexisNexis Butterworths	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
9	<p>Law Reform and Case Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Examples of recent law reform * Relevant case studies (e.g. counter-terrorism laws) * Role of parliamentary committees, media and lobbying in law reform 	Lecture	No Required Readings this Week	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
10	<p>A liberal democratic system?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is Australia a liberal democratic state? * Liberalism, the individual and the rule of law * Pressures on liberal democracy in Australia * How does Australia's liberal democratic system compare to other liberal democracies, and non-liberal/democratic systems? * Indigenous law/pluralism 	Lecture	Text Chapter 13	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
11	<p>Justice revisited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a re-examination of key issues raised throughout the course * application of these key issues to the criminal justice system in Australia 	Lecture	<p>Carpenter, B & Ball, M 2012, 'Criminal law, equality and justice', in <i>Justice in society</i>, Federation Press, Annandale, N.S.W., pp. 138-153</p> <p>Chisholm, R., & Nettheim, G. (2002). Due process of law <i>Understanding law: an introduction to Australia's legal system</i> (6th ed., pp. 115-125). Sydney: LexisNexis Butterworths. (Review - see module 4)</p>	1,2,3,4,6,7
12	<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What have we learned? * Course themes & review * Exam preparation 	Lecture		1,2,3,4,5,6,7

5. Assessment Plan

5.1 Assessment Summary

Item	Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning Outcomes	Due Date
1	Engaging with Politics	40%	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Week 10
2	Online Quizzes	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6	Weeks 5 & 11
3	Final Examination	40%	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Exam Period

5.2 Assessment Detail

1. Engaging with politics (Essay)

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Due Date: Week 10

Weight: 40%

Task Description:

This assessment item requires students to select a political issue of interest. This can be a local, state, or federal issue.

There are two components to this assessment.

The first component takes the form of a series of questions and answers about the political issue chosen by the student. These will require short answer responses, and is worth 15 marks. The questions to address will be available in the Student Portal.

The second component of this assessment item requires students to draft a submission to government regarding the political issue they have chosen. This will be worth 25 marks. A detailed information sheet about the form of this submission will be available in the Student Portal.

Criteria & Marking:

This piece of assessment will be assessed on the following basis:

1. Demonstration of knowledge of relevant government processes and institutions.
2. Quality of research and critical analysis.
3. Appropriateness of writing style and referencing skills.

A detailed criteria sheet will be available on the Student Portal.

Submission: Students MUST submit this task via MyStudy within the Student Portal.

2. Online Quizzes

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,3,4,5,6

Due Date: Weeks 5 and 11

Weight: 20%

Task Description:

Students will be required to complete two short quizzes during the trimester (one in week 5 and one in week 11). These quizzes will consist of a series of true/false and multiple choice questions. Each quiz is worth 10%.

More information about the quizzes will be provided early in the trimester.

Criteria & Marking:

The quizzes are designed to test basic course knowledge and are assessed on the basis of knowledge and accuracy.

3. Final Examination

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Due Date: Examination Period

Weight: 40%

Perusal: 10 minutes

Duration: 120 minutes

Format: Closed Book; multiple choice and short answer

Task Description:

The final exam will be a 2 hour, closed book exam (that is, you cannot take in any books or notes). Discussion questions (available on the Student Portal) indicate the type of questions that are likely to be asked in the exam (previous exam papers are NOT available). Review these discussion questions to help you study.

5.3 Late Submission

An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension from the Course Coordinator, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the maximum mark applicable for the assessment item, for each working day or part working day that the item is late. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date are awarded zero marks.

Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Assessment Policy for guidelines and penalties for late submission.

5.4 Other Assessment Information

Retention of Originals

You must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested. Copies should be retained until after the release of final results for the course.

Requests for extension

To apply for an extension of time for an assignment, you must submit an [Application for Extension of Assignment](#) form to your teacher at least 24 hours before the date the assignment is due. Grounds for extensions are usually: serious illness, accident, disability, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances and must be able to be substantiated with relevant documentation [e.g. [Griffith College Student Medical Certificate](#)]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

Return of Assessment Items

1. Marks awarded for in-trimester assessment items, except those being moderated externally with Griffith University, will be available on the Student Portal within fourteen [14] days of the due date. This does not apply to the final assessment item in this course (marks for this item will be provided with the final course result).
2. Students will be advised of their final grade through the Student Portal. Students can review their exam papers after student grades have been published (see relevant Griffith College Fact Sheet for allocated times at Support> Factsheets). Review of exam papers will not be permitted after the final date to enrol.
3. Marks for **all** assessment items including the final exam (if applicable) will be recorded in the Moodle Course Site and made available to students through the Moodle Course Site.

The sum of your marks overall assessment items in this course does not necessarily imply your final grade for the course. Standard grade cut off scores can be varied for particular courses, so you need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

6. Policies & Guidelines

Griffith College assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith College Policy Library](#) which include the following policies:

Assessment Policy, Special Consideration, Deferred Assessment, Alternate Exam Sitting, Medical Certificates, Academic Integrity, Finalisation of Results, Review of Marks, Moderation of Assessment, Turn-it-in Software Use. These policies can be accessed using the 'Document Search' feature within the [Policy Library](#)

Academic Integrity Griffith College is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and the College's reputation.

All staff and students of the College are responsible for academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to conduct your studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is considered a breach of academic integrity and is unacceptable.

Some students deliberately breach academic integrity standards with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-meditated form of cheating is considered to be one of the most serious forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the College has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the College, will be applied.

However, Griffith College also recognises many students breach academic integrity standards without intent to deceive. In these cases, students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour and may also be provided appropriate advice by academic staff.

As you undertake your studies at Griffith College, your lecturers, tutors and academic advisors will provide you with guidance to understand and maintain academic integrity; however, it is also your responsibility to seek out guidance if and when you are unsure about appropriate academic conduct.

In the case of an allegation of a breach of academic integrity being made against a student he or she may request the guidance and support of a Griffith College Student Learning Advisor or Student Counsellor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the Griffith College Academic Integrity Policy; this policy provides an overview of some of the behaviours that are considered breaches of academic integrity, as well as the penalties and processes involved when a breach is identified.

For further information please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Academic Integrity Policy

Reasonable Adjustments for Assessment – The Disability Services policy

The Disability Services policy (accessed using the Document Search' feature with the [Policy Library](#)) outlines the principles and processes that guide the College in making reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with disabilities while maintaining academic robustness of its programs.

Risk Assessment Statement

There are no out of the ordinary risks associated with this course.

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