



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	1012CCJ
Course Name:	Police, Courts & Criminal Law
Trimester:	Trimester 1, 2020
Program:	Diploma of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Credit Points:	10
Course Coordinator:	Greg Stevenson
Document modified:	16 December 2019

Course Description

Police Courts and Criminal Law explains the law and procedural processes which govern the way crimes are investigated, tried and punished in Australia. It begins by considering some general principles of criminal responsibility such as the aims and functions of the criminal law and its sources. The legal principles guiding police investigations are examined, including police powers and responsibilities, the rights of suspects, and the importance of obtaining reliable and admissible evidence. Finally, students learn about the ways cases can progress through the court system, from initial charge to final sentence. The course focuses primarily on the Queensland criminal justice system. Other jurisdictions are examined in passing, and general principles are common to all Australian systems.

Assumed Knowledge

Nil

1.2 Teaching Team

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

Name	Email
Greg Stevenson	grst@portal.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 course aims to provide students with an overview of laws relating to Australian criminal justice processes.

2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

1. Identify the aims and functions of the criminal law and how it operates in the Australian criminal justice system;
2. Explain criminal responsibility, the elements and the classifications of criminal offences;
3. Explain the processes by which alleged offences are investigated, brought to trial and punished;
4. Analyse the impact of criminal law processes on people affected by them; and
5. Apply the powers, functions and ethical responsibilities of police officers and other investigators, prosecutors, defence lawyers and judges throughout the criminal investigation and court process.

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
Knowledge and skills with critical judgement	X	X	X
Communication and collaboration skills	X	X	
Self-directed and active learning skills	X	X	
Creative and future thinking skills	X	X	
Social responsibility and ethical awareness	X	X	X
Cultural competence and awareness in a culturally diverse environment	X	X	

3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Findlay M, Odgers S & Yeo S, Australian Criminal Justice, 5th edition (2014), Oxford University Press, South Melbourne.

3.2 Recommended Resources

Lecture notes, notices and other issues relating to the course will be made available through the Griffith College portal;

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	Introducing the Criminal Law	Lecture	Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 1-17	1,2,3
	course overview	Class		
	aims and functions of the criminal law	Class		
	sources of criminal law	Class		
	court hierarchy and jurisdiction	Class		
	foundation principles: the rule of law and due process	Class		
2	Understanding Criminal Offences	Lecture	Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 17-35	1,2,3
	classification of offences	Class		
	elements of an offence	Class		
	criminal responsibility	Class		
3	Defences	Lecture	Criminal Code 1899, ss. 22-31	1,2,3
	legal defences and criminal responsibility	Class		
	types of defences including self-defence, provocation and intoxication	Class		
	domestic violence and self-defence	Class		
4	Police Powers 1	Lecture	Textbook, Chapter 2, pp. 36-69	1,2,3,4,5
	why and how is police power regulated?	Class		
	search, seizure and arrest powers	Class		
	answering problem-based questions (ISAAC)	Class		
5	Police Powers 2	Lecture	Textbook, Chapter 3, pp. 70-103	1,2,3,4,5
	detention and questioning powers	Class		
	right to silence and privilege against self-incrimination	Class		
	confessions as evidence	Class		
6	Police Powers and Accountability	Lecture		1,2,3,4,5
	police misconduct and corruption	Class		
	use of excessive force	Class		
	police accountability	Class		
	Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)	Class		
	Royal Commissions	Class		

7	Pre-Trial Processes	Lecture	Textbook Chapter 4, pp. 104-142	1,2,3,4,5
	discretion	Class		
	pre-trial decision-making by police, prosecutors and judges	Class		
	bail applications	Class		
8	The Criminal Trial	Lecture	Textbook Chapter 5, pp. 143-172	3,4,5
	prosecution, defence and judicial roles at trial	Class		
	legal representation and legal aid	Class		
	summary trials	Class		
	jury trials	Class		
	what is a fair trial?	Class		
9	Sentencing	Lecture	Chapters 7 & 8, pp. 202-280	3,4,5
	aims and objectives of sentencing	Class		
	sentencing hearings	Class		
	factors relevant to sentencing	Class		
	problems and new directions in sentencing	Class		
10	Appealing Court Decisions	Lecture	Chapter 9, pp. 281-291	3,4,5
	what is an appeal?	Class		
	appeals against conviction	Class		
	appeals against sentence	Class		
	miscarriages of justice not remedied by appeals	Class		
11	Justice and Injustice	Lecture	Chapter 10, pp. 299-364	3,4,5
	doing justice: who is targeted by criminal law and who is neglected?	Class		
	over-policing and under-policing	Class		
	victims	Class		
12	Review and Conclusion	Lecture		
	exam preparation	Class		
	course revision	Class		

5. Assessment Plan

5.1 Assessment Summary

Item	Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning Outcomes	Due Date
1	Court/Field Report	40%	1,2,3,4,5	Week 8
2	Online Quizzes	20%	1,2,3,5	Week 3 & 9
3	Final Exam	40%	1,2,3,4,5	Exam Period

5.2 Assessment Detail

Court / Field Report

Type: Assignment - Written Assignment
Learning Objectives Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4
Due Date: Week 8
Length: 2000 words
Weighting: 40%

Details of the field experience will be provided in class.

You will need to complete a proforma report about what you observed, and your reflections on the process. The proforma and more detailed requirements and criteria will be given to students in the first week of trimester.

Online Quizzes

Due Date: Week 3 and 9
Weight: 20%
Description:

Students will be required to complete two online quizzes during the trimester, assessing course content and application. These quizzes will consist of a series of true/false and multiple-choice items. Each quiz is worth 10%. More information about the quizzes will be provided in class.

Final Exam

Due Date: Examination Week
Weight: 40%
Duration: 90 minutes
Description:

The exam will consist of multiple-choice, true/false and short answer questions for a total of 80 marks (40%). Details of the style of questions with examples will be given in class.

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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