



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	1003CCJ
Course Name:	Law, Government & Policy
Trimester:	Trimester 2, 2020
Program:	Diploma of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Credit Points:	10 CP
Course Coordinator:	Greg Stevenson
Document modified:	29/05/2020

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

Nil

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

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 found on the Moodle Course Site.

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 with internet access, as well as camera and microphone functionality.

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. Define and describe the system of law and government in Australia
2. Discuss and implement the processes applied throughout the Australian political legal system
3. Critique the operation and fairness of law and government and its relationship with the quest for justice in Australia
4. Examine how the structure, processes and philosophies of law and politics are relevant to the operation of the criminal justice system throughout Australia



2.3 Generic Skills and Capabilities

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 and Capabilities		Taught	Practised	Assessed
Acquisition of discipline knowledge and skills with critical judgement		✓	✓	✓
Communication and collaboration		✓	✓	✓
Self-directed and active learning		✓	✓	✓
Creative and future thinking		✓	✓	✓
Social responsibility and ethical awareness		✓	✓	✓
Cultural competence and awareness in a culturally diverse environment		✓	✓	✓



3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Learning Resources

Required Text

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

3.2 Recommended Learning 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 academic advice and assignment help from Student Learning Advisors, and personal and welfare support from Student Counsellors.

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 Information about your Learning

Attendance

You are expected to actively engage in all learning experiences and learning activities which underpin the learning content in this course. You are expected to engage with the learning content and learning activities outside of timetabled class times. This requires you to be an active agent of your learning. You are expected to bring all necessary learning resources to class such as the required textbook and /or Workbook. In addition, you are encouraged to 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 Learning

In order to enhance your learning, you need to prepare before participating in the learning experiences. Absorb the learning content and complete the learning activities that are provided online before you attend the scheduled learning experiences. Make sure you complete the learning activities set each week, they are designed to support your learning. Active participation in your learning will enhance your success. 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 Learning Materials

Learning materials are made available to you in MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal. The learning materials are arranged in Modules. In each Module you will find the learning content, learning activities and learning experiences. Actively working your way through these course learning materials together with your lecturer or tutor will prepare you to succeed when completing the evidence of learning (assessment).

Self-Directed Learning

You will be expected to learn independently. This means you must organise and engage with the course learning content even when you are not specifically asked to do so by your lecturer or tutor. The weekly guide will be helpful to organise your learning. This involves revising the weekly course learning material and completing the learning activities. It also means you will need to find additional information to evidence your learning (assessment) beyond that given to you, 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 Content, Learning Activities and Learning Experiences

4.1 Modules for Learning and Weekly Learning Content, Learning Activities and Learning Experience

	Learning Content 	Learning activities 	Learning experiences 	Evidence of learning 	Learning outcome 
Module 1: Systems of Law and Government in Australia					
1	<i>Introduction: the idea and role of law</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Paradise City exercise</i>		1
2	<i>Law and Government in Australia</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; quiz</i>	<i>Statutory and Case Law Collaboration</i>		1
3	<i>Federalism</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal; quiz</i>	<i>Centralised vs Decentralised Debate</i>		1
Module 2: Australian Politics in Action					
4	<i>Elections and Political Parties</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Preferential Voting Exercise</i>		2
5	<i>Interest Groups and Media</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Lobbying Exercise</i>	<i>Moodle Online Quiz</i>	2
6	<i>Political Theories and Institutions</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal; quiz</i>	<i>Political Parties Exercise</i>		2
7	<i>The Constitution and the High Court</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; quiz</i>	<i>Constitutional Referendum Exercise</i>		2
Module 3: Government and Justice for Australia					
8	<i>What is Justice?</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Substantive Justice PBL Exercise</i>		3
9	<i>Law Reform and Case Studies</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Trivia Night</i>		3
10	<i>A Liberal Democratic System?</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet; reflective journal</i>	<i>Jeopardy</i>	<i>Engaging with Politics Essay</i>	3
11	<i>Justice Revisited</i>	<i>Lecture content; worksheet</i>	<i>'Like it or Unlike it'</i>	<i>Moodle Online Quiz</i>	3
Module 4: Course Review					
12	<i>Course Review</i>	<i>Review activity</i>	<i>Question Garden</i>		1,2,3,4



5. Evidence of Learning (Assessment Plan)

5.1 Evidence of Learning Summary

				
	Evidence of learning	Weighting	Learning outcome	Due Date
1	Engaging with Politics Essay	40%	1,2	Week10
2	Moodle Online Quizzes	20%	1,2,3	Weeks 5 and 11
3	Final Examination	40%	3,4	Final Exam Period

5.2 Evidence of Learning Task Detail

1. Engaging with politics (Essay)

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2

Due Date: Week 10

Weight: 40%

Task Description:

This evidence of learning task requires students to select a political issue of interest. This can be a local, state, or federal issue.

There are two components to this task.

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 evidence of learning 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 evidence of learning task 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 Moodle within the Student Portal.

2. Online Quizzes

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1,2,3

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

Due Date: Examination Period

Weight: 40%

Duration: 120 minutes

Format: Open Book

Task Description:

The final exam will be a 2 hour, open book exam. A question garden (available on the Student Portal) indicates the type of questions that are likely to be asked in the exam (previous exam papers are NOT available).

Review these questions to help you study.

5.3 Late Submission

An evidence of learning (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. Evidence of learning 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 Information about Evidence of Learning

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 evidence of learning item, 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 Evidence of Learning Items

1. Marks awarded for in-trimester evidence of learning 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 evidence of learning 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 final exam papers after student grades have been published. Review of final exam papers will not be permitted after the final date to enrol.
3. Marks for **all** evidence of learning 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 of evidence of learning 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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