
SUBJECT:

LEGAL STUDIES

STATUS: Authority Subject

CODE: LEG

COST: TBA

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Legal studies is a course of study which aims at promoting in students a general understanding of legal principles and an informed appreciation of our legal system. Law affects every member of society and, as such, students need to be aware of the significance of the law as a major contributor to society's structure, functions and operations.

It is hoped that through this course of study, students will recognise that certain situations that arise in their everyday lives, have legal implications that affect their rights and obligations as community members.

This course is not intended as a prerequisite for entry to tertiary law, however, students undertaking Legal Studies will find they will develop competencies, skills, processes, attitudes and values which will be beneficial to tertiary studies.

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. The Legal System – How does the organisation of the legal system meet society's requirements?
2. Crime and Society – What is crime? How should society and the criminal justice system respond to it?
3. Civil obligations – How does civil law impact on citizens in a society?
 - Agreements
 - Civil wrongs (torts)
4. You, the Law and Society. A choice of at least two of the following:
 - Family – How does the law recognise and regulate family relationships?
 - Renting and buying – How does the law regulate the buying, selling and renting of real property and what rights and obligations exist for the parties involved?
 - Jobs – How does the legal system regulate the rights and responsibilities of parties involved in the provision and receipt of services?
 - Environment – How does the law impact on the environment?
 - Consumers – How does the law regulate consumer transactions?
 - Technology – How does the law keep pace with technological developments?
 - Rights and Responsibilities – Does the legal system properly balance the rights and responsibilities of individuals and the community?
 - Independent study – Students must complete one independent study
5. Law in a changing society

ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES:

A wide range of assessment techniques to determine the relationships between student achievement and the exit criteria of the course will include:

- Factual knowledge and understanding of the legal system
- Investigation of legal issues encountered in society
- Evaluation of the social relevance or justification of legal outcomes
- Communication of ideas and information

Assessment techniques used often include short-answer tests, essays, assignments, practical exercises, real or simulated problem solving, seminar and media presentations, as well as reports on field experiences.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Additional costs will be incurred for excursions (eg court house visits).

