

Legal Skills

This course is a compulsory course for Penultimate Year LLB.

The course has been introduced to counter problems that the legal profession is having with new law graduates who lack certain basic generic skills necessary for a legal career.

The course consists of six modules ('blocks') that are taught one after the other. Assessment will be by way of test or assignment, and moots. There will be no exam at the end of the course, and hence no possibility of a supplementary exam in the event of a failure. Note that the last component, Legal Argument and Moots, will be presented and assessed at the beginning of the third term.

The modules, in order of presentation (percentage of total mark allocation indicated in brackets) are:

| Module | % of total mark | Presenter |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Numeracy | (15%) | Dr Bruce Brown |
| • Writing skills | (10%) | Ms Anjanette Haller-Barker |
| • Legal Ethics | (10%) | Ms Helen Kruise |
| • Legal research | (20%) | Prof Graham Glover |
| • Applied logic and critical reasoning | (15%) | Ms Anjanette Haller-Barker |
| • Legal argument and moots | (30%) | Adv Les Roberts |

Course co-ordinator: **Adv Les Roberts**

Handouts, etc, will be provided in due course by the individual lecturers.

Note that while the main part of the course will be done in the two official lecture slots as per the timetable, there will be special arrangements for the Numeracy component (see separate notice).

Outcomes for Numeracy

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to do the following:

- Be numerate at the level required for the numeracy component of the attorneys' admission
- Competently apply the following mathematical skills:
- Basic number sense and calculation skills involving the following number systems:
 - Whole numbers

- Integers
- Rational numbers (represented as fractions, decimals or percentages).
- Simple algebra; representing quantities symbolically and manipulating such symbols.
- Functions and relationships; in particular:
 - Proportion and rates
 - Linear functions
 - Exponential functions
 - The amortization function
- Plotting and reading simple graphs; in particular, graphs of the above relationships
- Applications of the above concepts and skills to situations relevant to the legal profession.

Outcomes for Legal Writing

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Use punctuation as a guide to meaning

Communicate clearly and concisely in writing in plain English.

Outcomes for Legal Ethics

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify the sources of ethical rules in the legal profession
- Identify and understand the different approaches to legal ethics.
- Debate current ethical issues and think critically about existing practices.
- Apply ethical rules to practical scenarios.

Outcomes for Legal Research

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and understand the various legal research resources, methodologies and techniques that are available to a law student and a lawyer;
- Utilise the various legal research resources, methodologies and techniques in order to solve practical legal problems.

Outcomes for Applied Logic and Legal Reasoning

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Analyse the concepts of applied logic and critical reasoning in the context of the study of Law;
- Organise their approach to legal research, and their production of verbal and written work, in a logical and systematic manner;
- Apply the process of critical reasoning in their construction of legal arguments and opinion.

Outcomes for Moots/Legal Argument

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- On a supplied set of facts prepare heads of argument suitable for a moot court (and thus for a real legal argument in court) which comply technically with court requirements, and which succinctly and logically provide an outline of the argument which will be delivered orally subsequently;
- Present an oral legal legal argument in a moot court setting in a logical, coherent and distinct fashion, and competently respond to questions posed from the bench during the course of the argument.