

LWC304 Research Paper

Credit points:	10	Mode:	Internal and online
Assumed knowledge:	n/a		
Year:	2012	Semester:	One
Unit coordinator:	Associate Professor David Price	phone:	08 89466959
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School:	Law and Business		

Unit Description

The unit LWC304 Research Paper is a prerequisite to the award of a law degree with honours. Students are required to complete a research paper of approximately 10,000 words, not including footnotes or references. The topic will be chosen by the student and approved by the Unit Coordinator.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit a student should be able to:

1. Develop a research question on a legal issue or legal area of interest.
2. Design and explain a research management strategy.
3. Complete and report on this independent research on the agreed legal issue in line with the research management strategy.
4. Demonstrate competence in the application of legal citation and referencing skills according to AGLC standards in the context of a research project.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Students undertake Independent legal research during the semester. Initially, a research question is developed with their supervisor and approved by the unit coordinator.

Online sessions that focus on the development of the project are held early in the semester, and after the mid-semester break.

Participation

LWC304 is a full semester unit. Students should be mindful of the following points:

This unit is based on a self-learning approach. Students are responsible for their own learning. The Unit Coordinator and supervisor are available to assist, but ultimately the student is responsible for

<i>Unit Information Template:</i> Version 4.0 13/11/09	<i>Administered:</i> TLQG	<i>Approved:</i> Senior DVC	<i>Next Review:</i> November 2010
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obtaining mastery of this unit. Students who succeed are those who are self-starters and make best use of the resources available to them and are prepared to ask questions to seek out the information they need.

Students are also responsible for identifying a supervisor from amongst the academic staff in the discipline or an associate supervisor who may be a member of the legal profession. The Unit Coordinator will act as default supervisor where students are unable to identify an internal supervisor or where they wish to use an associate supervisor.

Specific details of individual seminar times can be obtained by accessing the class timetable at: <http://skua.cdu.edu.au/swseven/>

Special Admission Requirements

Admission to this unit requires the approval of the Head of the Law discipline or delegate. Prospective students should have a grade point average of 5.2.

Resources

Required textbook(s)

There is no set text for this unit.

However students will need to utilise the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (3rd ed., 2010).

Suggested Reading:

Bruce Bott & Ruth Talbot, *Nemes and Coss' Effective Legal Research*, LexisNexis, 4th ed., 2010.

The AGLC and suggested books can be ordered from the CDU Bookshop through their website at www.cdu.edu.au/bookshop

Learnline (Online Learning System)

Learnline is Charles Darwin University's on-line learning system.

In this unit, Learnline will be used to:

- provide important announcements about the unit
- distribute relevant material
- run scheduled online seminars
- provide a communication point where you contribute to discussions as part of your research, and to interact with other students in the unit

You will need to connect to the Internet to access it, at <http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/>

e-Reserve

e-Reserve allows electronic copies of journal articles, book chapters and lecturer notes that have been recommended by a lecturer as part of their course reading requirements. You can access e-Reserve at <http://ereserve.cdu.edu.au.ezproxy.cdu.edu.au/>

This site is password protected. Your CDU student login will provide you access. You can then search for items by Lecturer, Unit Code, Title, Author, keyword, Year or Date if you have that information.

Overview of Assessment

Item	Description/Focus	Value	Relates to learning outcomes
1.	Summative Assessment for this unit comprises evaluation of a final research paper of some 10,000 words (not including footnotes or bibliography).	100%	1, 2, 3, 4,
2.	Formative feedback is provided to individual students through discussions with their supervisors	n/a	

Learnline Submission

The research paper should be submitted on or before **11:59pm CST, 3 June 2012** via the Online Submission provision in the Assessments area of the Learnline site.

If submission by Learnline is technically impossible, or if unsurmountable difficulties are encountered, contact the unit coordinator at david.price@cdu.edu.au

To submit via Learnline:

- Click on the Assessments button on the left-hand side of the screen then click the Research Paper link.
- On the 'Assignment Materials' section, click on Browse for Local File to attach your file. Once the file has been located, click Open and the file name will appear in the Selected File section. Click on Attach File.
- You may now click on 'Submit' (or 'Save as Draft' if you wish to come back to it at a later stage).

Only click 'Submit' once you are certain the research paper is complete.

Warning: Once your research paper is submitted you cannot go back and make changes to it. Therefore if you are not ready for your supervisor to review your assignment use the 'Save as Draft' button.

If you make a mistake (i.e. submit the wrong essay), you will need to email your lecturer to advise.

Again, ensure that the cover sheet is attached, and that your name appears in a header or footer in the assignment.

Extensions and late submission

The research paper must be submitted by the due date unless a PRIOR extension of time has been approved by the Unit Coordinator before the due date. The request for an extension of time will only be considered for reasons properly supported by written documents. (The written documents must provide sufficient reasons why the assignment cannot be completed over the period given for the assignment).

Students who submit the research paper after the due date without prior approval from the Unit Coordinator will incur a penalty in accordance with the Faculty policy on late submission.

Calculation of Honours

For the purpose of calculating honours, the research paper has a weighting of $\times 4$; that is, it is treated as equivalent to a 40 credit point unit for that purpose [where a student completes more than one research paper, the first only is so weighted for honours purposes].

A degree with honours is awarded on the following basis:

First class:	Grade Point Average [GPA]	6.0
Second Class Division A:	GPA	5.5
Second Class Division B:	GPA	5.2

For the purpose of calculating GPA for honours, there is no rounding up of numbers. For example, a GPA of 5.499 gives an entitlement to 2B honours only.

Honours may be calculated by dividing the number of graded law units by the total grade points received. Points are calculated as follows:

High Distinction	7
Distinction	6
Credit	5
Pass	4
PC or PS	3
Fail	2

A hypothetical example is given below. Note that the example is based on a 3 year graduate entry degree program and assumes that the student has taken 2 of the former skills units, which, being ungraded passes, are not included for the purpose of calculating honours. The units taken and the divisor [in the example, 24], will vary according to the nature of the degree [graduate, undergraduate, or combined] and the number of non-law electives or former skills units taken. Only law degree units are included in the honours calculation. The common units undertaken in the 4 year BLaws degree program, and any non-law units, are not included.

Students should consult with the unit coordinator if they have difficulty in assessing their eligibility for honours.

Example: Calculation of Law Honours

This example is based on the 3 year graduate entry degree and assumes that the student has taken 2 of the former 5 credit-point skills units. Since ungraded passes only were awarded, these units are not included for the purpose of calculating honours.

Except for the former LWZ001 and LWC304, all units have a 10 credit point value and, therefore, have a 1 x weighting. LWZ001, having been a 20 credit point unit, has a 2 x weighting. The Research paper, though a 10 credit point unit, has a 4 x weighting for honours purposes.

Note that this example includes units offered under both former codes and current codes. The change of code makes no difference in calculating honours.

Note also that the former 5 credit point law skills units, for which an ungraded pass (PU) was the only grade awarded, are not included in the honours calculations. From 2010, the new law skills units became 10 credit point units subject to the normal full range of grades and are therefore included in honours grade calculations.

Unit	Grade Received	Grade weighting	Score
LWZ001	C	2	10 (2 X 5)
LWZ002	D	1	6
LWZ003	C	1	5
LWZ004	HD	1	7
LWZ005	P	1	4
LWZ006	C	1	5
LWZ007	C	1	5
LWZ008	P	1	4
LWZ009	D	1	6
LWZ210	D	1	6
LWZ211	HD	1	7
LWZ312	C	1	5
LWZ013	C	1	5
LWZ214	D	1	6
LWZ315	C	1	5
Law Elective	P	1	4
LWS010 Moot (5cps)	PU	-	-
LWS017 Client Interviewing (5cps)	PU	-	-
non-Law elective	HD	-	-
LWZ316	C	1	5
LWZ317	D	1	6
LWZ320 Professional Responsibility	P	1	4
LWC304	HD	4	28 (4 X 7)
TOTAL		24	134

134 divided by 24 = 5.583 honours GPA

Therefore, the hypothetical student, having a GPA of 5.583, would be awarded Honours 2A.

In relation to the significance of the weighting of the honours paper, in the above example the student received HD for that unit. However, if the student had received:

- a D (distinction) for the research paper, the GPA would be 5.41, giving 2B honours;
- a C (credit) for the research paper, the GPA would be 5.25, also giving 2B honours;
- a P (pass) for the research paper, the GPA would be 5.08 and the degree would be awarded without honours.

CDU Graduate attributes

CDU graduate attributes refer to those skills, qualities and understandings that should be acquired by students during their time at the University regardless of their discipline of study. (See <http://www.cdu.edu.au/teachingandlearning/gradattributes.html>).

In this unit, the following graduate attributes are developed:

Attribute	Description	Learning outcomes
Acquisition	Can identify, retrieve, evaluate and use relevant information and current technologies to advance learning and execute work tasks.	1
Application	Is an efficient and innovative project planner and problem solver, capable of applying logical and critical thinking to problems across a range of disciplinary settings and has self-management skills that contribute to personal satisfaction and growth.	2, 4
Creativity	Can conceive of imaginative and innovative responses to future orientated challenges and research.	2, 3
Knowledge base	Has an understanding of the broad theoretical and technical concepts related to their discipline area, with relevant connections to industry, professional, and regional and indigenous knowledge.	1, 2
Communication	Demonstrates oral, written, and effective listening skills as well as numerical, technical and graphic communication skills in a cross generational environment.	3, 4
Social responsibility	Is able to apply equity values, and has a sense of social responsibility, sustainability, and sensitivity to other peoples, cultures and the environment.	2, 3
Flexibility	Can function effectively and constructively in an inter-cultural or global environment and in a variety of complex situations.	2, 3

University Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of material written or produced by others or a rework of your own material. All sources of information and ideas used in assignments must be referenced. This applies whether the information is from a book, journal article, the internet, or a previous essay you wrote or the assignment of a friend.

Plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty if proved may have very serious consequences for those wishing to be admitted to practise as a legal practitioner, as proven dishonesty may lead to refusal of admission by the relevant Legal Practitioners Admission Board.

The University Plagiarism policy is available at:

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/governance/documents/3.3academicandscientificmisconduct.pdf>