



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

BUSINESS + LAW

A Lecturer's Toolbox: A 'Just-in-Time' Approach for a High Quality First Year Student Experience

Pacific Rim, First Year in Higher Education Conference 2009, Townsville

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The Unit.

- MLL110 *Law, Society & Civil Rights (Introduction to Law)*
 - Me – Unit Chair / lecturer
- 450 students
 - 200 face-to-face at my campus + 250 in 2 other campuses and also offered online for off-campus
- Mostly school-leaver students ('high achievers'(?))
- Monday lecture 12-2pm
- And ... Friday lectures 4-6pm. ☹️

Setting the Scene: Around the year 2005

News from our previous fronts...

“This has been the worst teaching experience of my entire life. I dreaded Fridays.” – former MLL 110 lecturer



Student legend has it that in one MLL110 lecture, the lecturer crouched down on the floor sobbing, whilst students threw paper planes and pens towards the lecturer


In 2006, a (former) law academic resigned from the Law School and gave away teaching because of MLL110

Student Evaluation— Q5
‘Was this Unit Well Taught’?
(Burwood)

2005 – 1.88/5.00
(lowest in the University)

2006 – 2.76
(different lecturer / mean: 3.8)

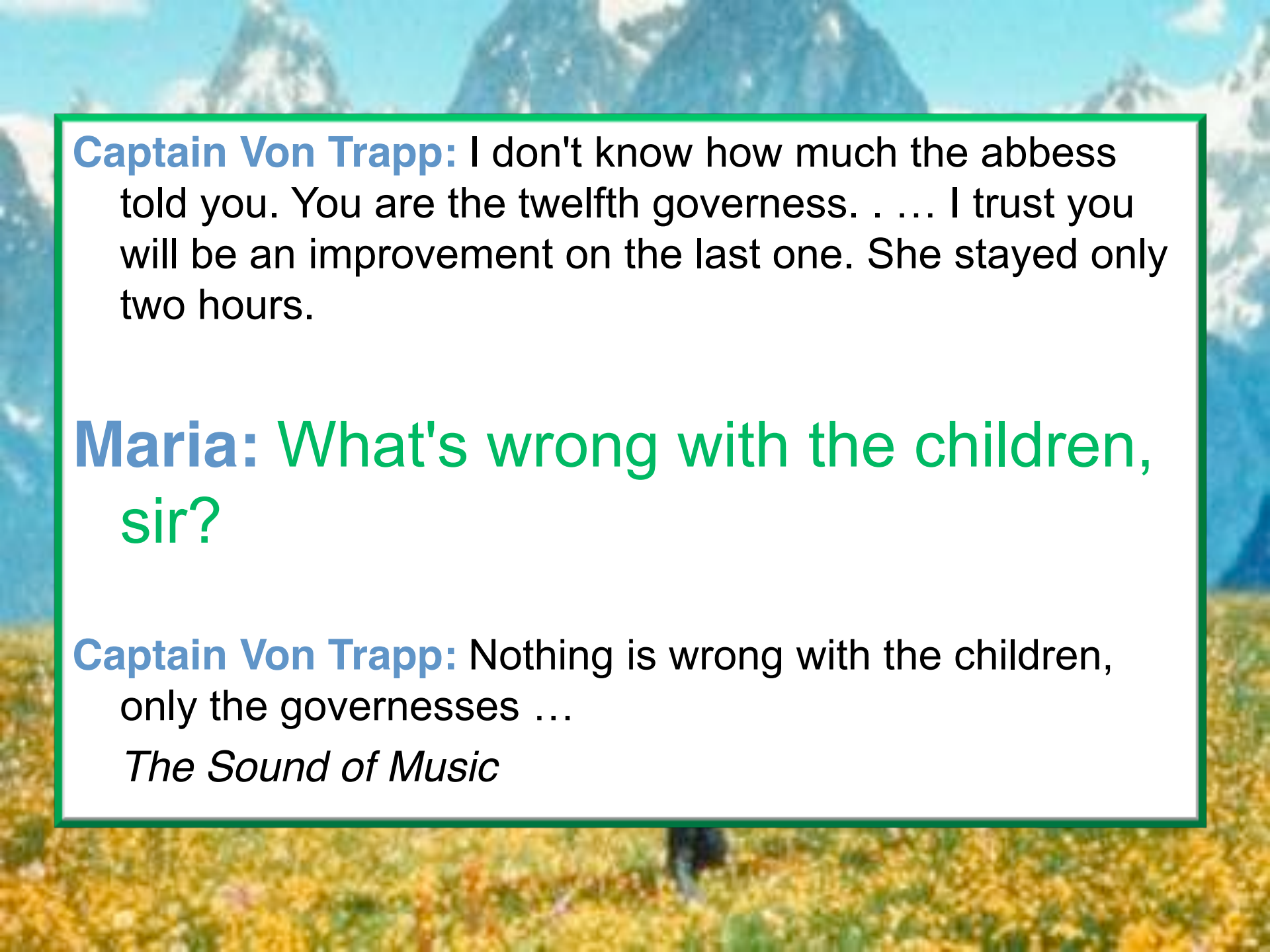
2007 – 2.80
(different lecturer)



(End of 2007)

“Claire, we would
like you to lecture
MLL110 *Law
Society and Civil
Rights*”.





Captain Von Trapp: I don't know how much the abbess told you. You are the twelfth governess. . . . I trust you will be an improvement on the last one. She stayed only two hours.

Maria: What's wrong with the children, sir?

Captain Von Trapp: Nothing is wrong with the children, only the governesses ...

The Sound of Music

My Battleplan

Subject knowledge.

Teaching Skills / Implement transition program.

Personality (the 'right' person for the job?) .

Interpersonal Relationships.

Research/Teaching Nexus.

- *the 5 common attributes of excellent university lecturers (Kane et al p.292)*

= Student engagement (method)

= enhanced learning (objective)

= 'just-in-time' approach for high quality student learning

*And beginning with
a 'snapshot' of a 1st
year student from
the literature*

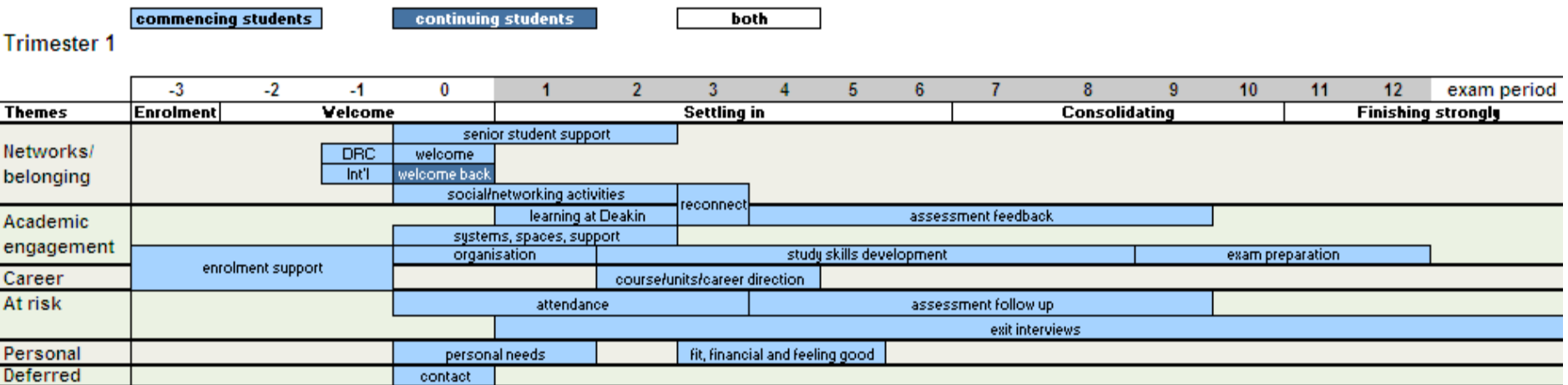
(Krause et al, 2005):

- Conditional & uncertain to start
- Needs to juggle work & study
- Enjoys intellectual challenge etc
- but further informed by considerations of student diversity

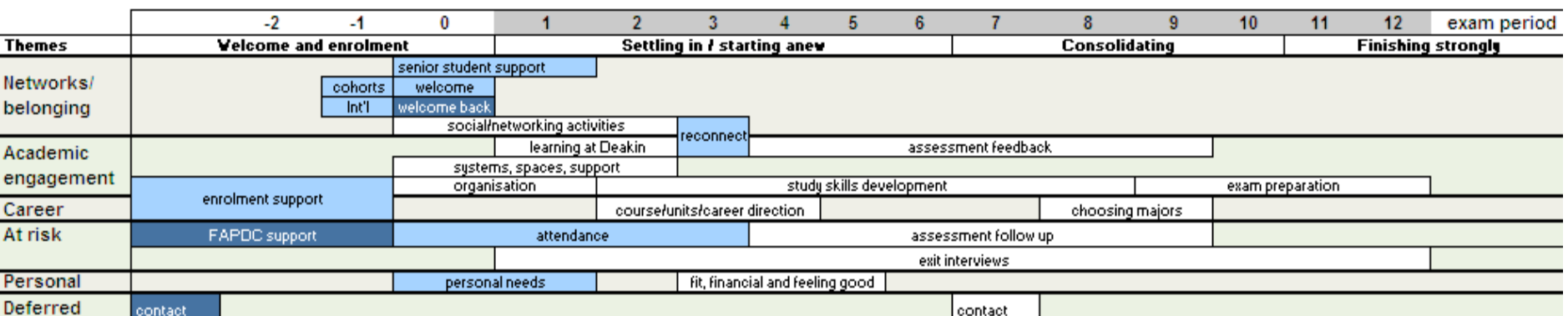


... and in the context of a complementary institutional transition program:

Deakin University's 12 month transition plan for commencing on campus students



Trimesters 2 and 3



Stage One – Orientation to Week 3

overwhelmed, lots of info!, stress, anxiety, tension, but a positive outlook, enthusiastic! (Krause et al, 2006)

What should I expect? ...
and what's expected of me
in a law degree at Deakin?



What should I expect in this Unit?
What are the average marks?

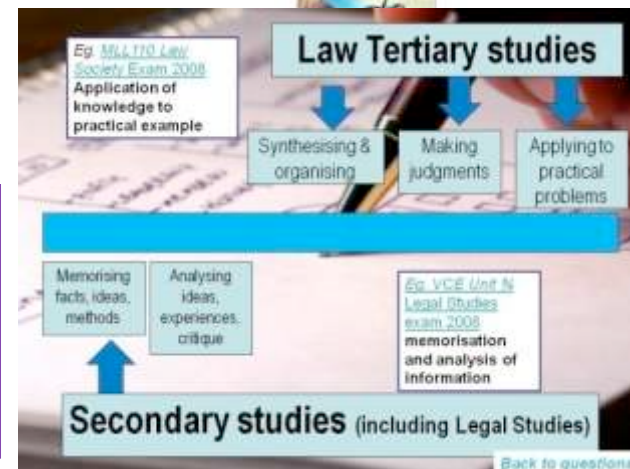
Unit Chair & Burwood Co-ordinator – Claire Macken
Guest lecturer Burwood – Oscar Roos
Lecturer Geelong & Off-Campus (Audiostream)
– Ben Hayward
Lecturer Warrnambool – Margaret Brock
Tutors Burwood – Patricia Perlen (other days) & Kay Maxwell (Weds)
Tutor Geelong – Bruce Lindsay
Librarians (Legal Research Module) : Frank Forte (Burwood) Helen Wood (Geelong) Dorothy Rooney (Geelong/ Warrnambool)



Do I need to be SUPER-BRAINY to study law?!



No.



ed is up

Expect to acquire a variety of skills
... that will take you wherever you want to go

- Well-developed communication skills
 - Oral, written, IT & presentation skills
- Well developed organisational skills
 - Time management is important
- Highly developed analytical skills
 - Capacity to work in teams
 - PLS tasks are team tasks
 - Mocking is a team activity
- Capacity for independent, life-long learning
 - Ability to cope with law's constant changes
 - Use of on-line resources for flexible learning

Expect to engage with the law in practice



Expect: Independent learning & responsibility for your own law studies



Assisted by
Lecturers and
Tutors
-in lectures &
-On Deakin
Studies Online
(DSO)

Home Page

Faculty of Business and Law

MLL110
Law, Society And Civil Rights

Welcome to Week One of Law Society and Civil Rights in Trimester 1, 2009!

Start by 1) Reading the Welcome Message and 2) Downloading the Unit Guide



Welcome to Law
Society & Civil Rights!

Click here for the LEGAL
RESEARCH MODULE, ESSAY
TOPICS and EXAM
information.



MLL110 Unit Guide
Click here for important
information on the unit,
assessment, a weekly
planner and more!



MLL110 Frequently Asked
Questions!
* UPDATED OFTEN * All the
questions we frequently
answer about MLL110 Law
Society & Civil Rights



Resources for MLL110 Law
Society & Civil Rights



Feedback for MLL110
Information regarding
Student Evaluation of
Teaching in MLL110 and
feedback.

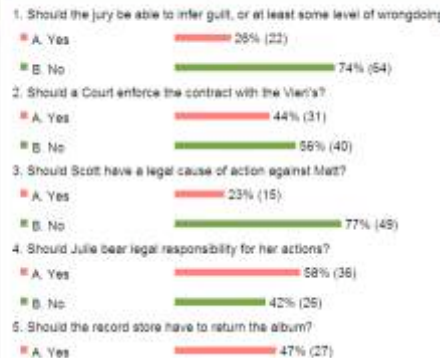
And from now (throughout Trimester!)

Fun Fridays

in MLL110 Law, Society and Civil Rights!



Claire Macken's 'Fun Friday' Mobile Phone Test



Videos



Time set aside for:

Guest lecturers - from the legal profession

Role play - In groups/pairs/individuals to present information on a specific topic, in front of a class or group.

Question / Answer Sessions on MLL110

Law Firm Groups - to learn from each other in a small group in class

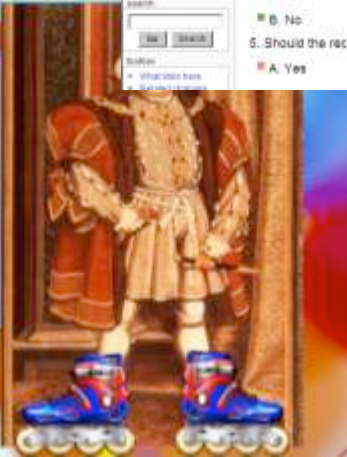
Teacher/ Student Swap
In groups you become the teacher and present from the lectern

Court visits + a visit to Parliament

Mindmapping/ brainstorming sessions
- to get you thinking + learning

[Back to questions](#)

Speed Dating in
Legal History



approaches
learning law

and until week 6 of Trimester ...

‘FYI’ First Year Information email

(based on Infoflow)

From: Claire Macken [claire.macken@deakin.edu.au]
To: Recipient list suppressed:
Cc:
Subject: FYI: Welcome to Week Two, First Year Law at Deakin

FYI - First Year Law Information

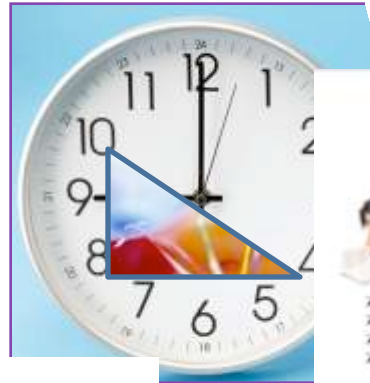
2- minutes of hints, tips & ideas for MLL110 *Law, Society & Civil Rights* delivered direct to your email inbox once-a-week from Claire Macken!

Hi everyone at the Burwood campus in MLL110,

Well this week we are starting to work on the skills of legal research and writing. Don't forget to bring the essay Friday! - we are all going to **get started** on the essay, to be continued in tutorials in week two. The essay ques from DSO in the ASSESSMENT icon: www.deakin.edu.au/dso

Stage Two– Weeks 4 - 10

loss of momentum, frustrated, a 'failure', challenging +
are doing (Eijkman, 2002), feelings of inadequacy, c
(Hillman 2005), consider withdrawing from cours



Optional VISIT TO PARLIAMENT Information

In Topic 6 *Law Society & Civil Rights* we study legislation, including the parliamentary process in Statute. This process is described in Topic 6 of the Study Guide entitled 'Legislation'. Victorian at the Parliament of Victoria, located at
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
Melbourne, Victoria

In a tour of Parliament House, a guide will take you on a tour of Parliament, including the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, the two Chambers of Parliament in which Victorian laws are passed.



De-Stressed! How to Study Law Groups
Planning Time for Your Law Studies

Every time you sit down to study, you could divide each hour into 45/15, meaning 45 minutes effective study followed by a 15 minutes break. You might find 90-10 works best for you (50 minutes study, 10 minutes break). 3 or 4 sessions of 45 or 50 minutes is an effective way to learn.

Begin each study session with a 5 minute *outline* task that will help you get you "primed" and prepared to tackle study. This could be something simple, such as writing out the text books for a particular subject, opening the relevant computer file, getting your pens and paper lined up. Anything – just something that lets your mind know "It's now time to study".

You should spend the next 5-10 minutes *writing a plan* for this study session of 2-4 hours. What do you want to cover in this session?

To write a plan:

- Write a big "to do" list for each subject. Look at your subjects and think about everything that needs to be done. You could even write a "to do" list for the entire month, or a whole subject. If you have a large task to

De-Stressed! How to Study Law Groups

Effective Reading in Your Law Studies

Claire Macken - claire.macken@drakin.edu.au

Go to a Chapter of your Textbook. Any chapter, or no chapter at all. Just pick one. Complete this exercise!

Before



And ... keeping it interesting

Interesting lectures, engaging materials, quality explanations, clear student expectations, relevance of unit to law degree – consistently & often

At this time of Semester ...

You might be wondering
What Law Society
& Civil Rights is
all about ...

SO!

How DID the Law
come to Australia?

AUSTRALIAN
LAW

Civil Case

Macken v Macken
(plaintiff) v (defendant)

These are "litigants" suing
each other
"v" is pronounced "and"

Criminal Case

R v Macken
(Regina) v (accused/defendant)

This is a prosecution by the
Crown/State/Regina or "R"
against an individual
"v" is pronounced "against"

with quality assessment to drive student learning

- Developing criterion-referenced marking guides

Sample annotated essays (fail – HD)

Clearly articulated expectations

Liaison librarians on each campus take lectures on legal research skills

‘Three’ forms of feedback: Self-reflection, individual, group – early enough for improvement

MLL 110 LAW SOCIETY & CIVIL RIGHTS 15% WRITTEN PAPER MARKING CRITERIA

CRITERION	HIGH DISTINCTION	DISTINCTION	CREDIT	PASS	UNDER 50% FAIL
1. Presentation, style & structure. Weight: 20%	Your written paper was well presented, with clear expression including accuracy in spelling, grammar and punctuation. You effectively engaged in a professional manner, demonstrating clear legal knowledge. The paper	Your written paper was generally well presented and logically organised. The language was fluent, and grammar and spelling accurate. Your discussion was appropriate, and provided a clear answer.	Your written paper generally showed organisation and coherence, but was lacking in some places. The language was usually fluent, and grammar and spelling usually accurate.	Your written paper showed some attempt to organise in a logical manner, but was lacking in several places. The meaning was apparent, but the language was not always apparent, with some grammatical and/or spelling errors. At times the structure is	Your written paper was disorganised and

MLL 110 Law Society and Civil Rights, Semester Details of the 30% assignment component Including essay topics and frequently asked questions

ESSAY SAMPLE THREE – with mark

In the beginning, **the beginning of what?** Before the B aborigines of Australia and the white community of Am W. Howard and his administration to produce a formal government. **These are bold general statements with expressed and contains grammatical errors.** This pre forcible removal of young aborigine children from their known in more current media as "The Stolen Generation **the views of the current media, a lawyer is concerned there is no legal analysis and no reference to a legal**

In the aftermath of the National report, The Federal Gov eliminate a burden of responsibility on their behalf, they of the stolen generation. **Says who? Authority is used the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands at report are you referring to?** This speech sparked a gre community. **The entire community? When? Where?** They **who did?** denounced not only an apology for The Government denying the total existence of The Stolen C the time John Howard continued to repudiate saying 'so Community. Howard said that by saying sorry would hold the government liable and open for compensation claims.

Compensation.
Howard said in a public forum, why say sorry? **What public forum? When? Where? Reference needed?**

What am I expected to do?

There are 3 components to the 30% assignment

1. A compulsory 30% essay assessment, comprised of 3 separate components.

- A legal research module totalling 10% of your mark. The test is online, available in D Online and opens on **Friday 27 March 2009**. You must complete this test by Friday 3 April 2009.
- A 1500 word written essay totalling 15% of your mark answering one of the questions. The essay must be submitted by **Thursday 9 April 2009** AND
- A reference list totally 5% of your mark, attached and submitted with your written essay. The reference list must be submitted with your essay on **Thursday 9 April 2009**.

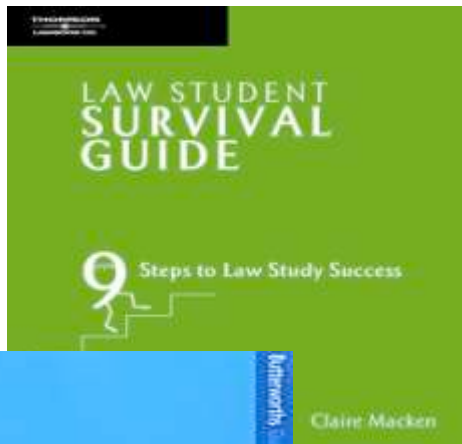
My assignment will be marked according to:

1. The marking guide from tutes & posted on DSO
2. Claire's son arbitrarily scribbling a mark at random



Stage Three – Weeks 11 – end of trimester

concern for end-of-trimester assessments, a need for a strong sense of purpose and belief in own abilities (Asmar et al, 2000)



Exam Practice

Fun Fridays

Week's objective

By the end of this lecture, you will have:

- Completed a practice exam in this unit
- Applied your skills of legal reasoning (topic 4) to answer a question from a previous exam
- Reflected on your approach / strengths & weaknesses as a group
- Heard from prior students as to their approach to studying law

Study skills: independent learning for study success

Improve your learning

How we can help

Workshops

Small resources

Consultations

Lecturers and Learning Advisers

Resources

Studying at university

Reading and writing

Referencing and avoiding plagiarism

Language and style

Exam preparation

A-Z Index

Higher Degree by Research (HDR)

Getting started

How to write a thesis

Faculty of Business and Law

Law Essentials

Home

Learning Law

Law in Practice

Law as a Profession

Contact us

Your essential guide to law

The focus of all the resources you need to succeed in your study

About Law Essentials

Law Essentials is for all law learners, law graduates and for anyone thinking of studying law at University

A Strategic Teaching and Learning Project of Deakin Law School, Faculty of Business and Law

Information about

Learning Law

Law in Practice

Law as a Profession

Law E-essentials

Deakin School of Law

Faculty of Business and Law

Deakin Library

Deakin Law School and Learning

Deakin Life

Deakin Law Students' Society

Law Essentials is great

Thinking about Law? Learning Law? A Law graduate? Find out more about Law Essentials

Law Essentials 2019 (Law & HR)

Law Essentials News

Unpack the secrets

Study skills, legal research and writing law and comments, first year law students

Practice makes perfect

Practical legal skills, mooting, negotiation and witness examination skills

Law in Practice

Careers and more

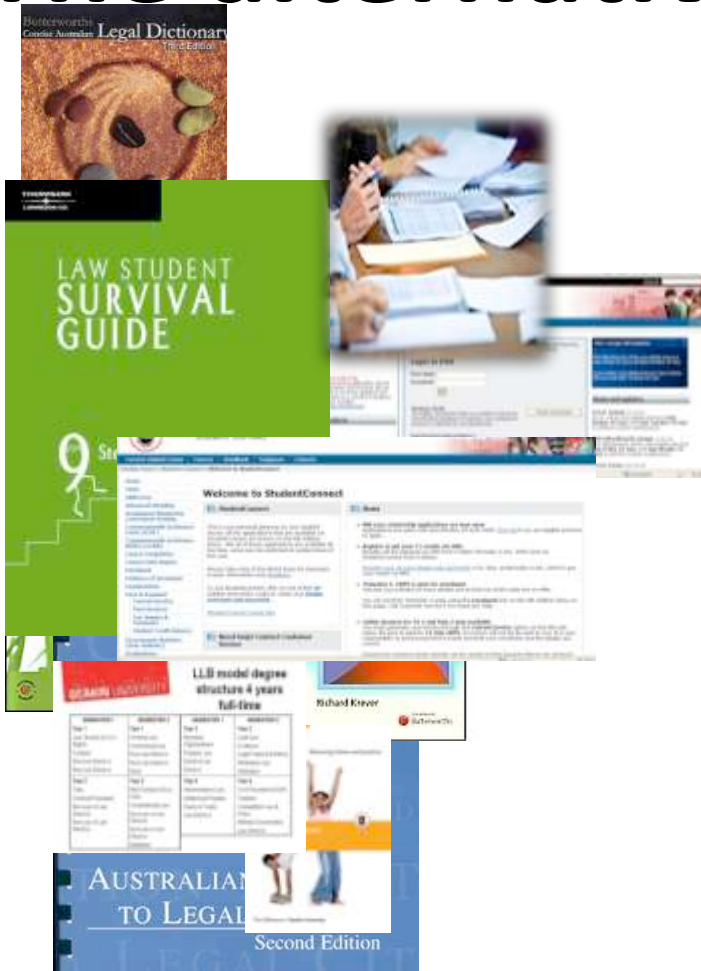
Gain practical experience in law, mooting options, your career and options

Discover Law as a pathway

Plagiarism and collusion

The alternative to just-in-time?

An 'info'
dump ...!



Work it out for yourself. . .

Roll Up ! News from our student evaluations Sem 1 2008

“Absolutely loved *Law Society and Civil Rights*. Great lectures and tutorials. Very happy with the standard of this unit.”

“This is an essential introduction to a daunting new environment and is handled very well by all the staff, who are approachable and friendly... the atmosphere and the support were the best aspects by far.”

“*Law, Society and Civil Rights* is always the highlight of my week. Thankyou!”

SETU – Q5 ‘Was this Unit Well Taught’?
(Burwood)

2005 – 1.88
(29.6% agree unit is well taught)

2006 – 2.76
(different lecturer)

2007 – 2.80
(different lecturer)

2008 – 4.50
(94.6% agree unit is well taught)

2009 -?

Help for those in state of shock

Rachel Lebihan

When the romanticised view of studying law — instilled by television shows like *Boston Legal* and *Law and Order* — dims for first-year students and reality kicks in, Deakin University is using a transition program to put them back on track.

Deakin's law school introduced a transition program — dubbed Distressed — at the first semester of the academic year to teach students the skills needed to study law.

Claire Macken, a first-year lecturer who spearheaded the initiative, said many first-year law students had little idea what they were getting themselves into.

The fundamental skills used in studying law were reading, critical analysis and writing.

When students had to knuckle down to the first units of an undergraduate degree — contract law and theories of commercial law, “they realise it's not as exotic as they have imaged originally”, Ms Macken said. “In fact you are often reading a lot of very heavy material, and it's often quite a shock to those entering the degree.”

The time commitment is often the biggest shock for new undergraduates, as is the difference between university study and high school study.

The informal Distressed study skills sessions acted as a clearing house for any issues students were struggling with — from disability resource services to time management, she said.

Launched this year, the school ran weekly sessions which usually focused on development of a particular skill. Attendance was optional, but Ms Macken said the rooms were packed.

Deakin's bachelor of law students are also required to participate in a Practical Legal Skills program to improve their knowledge of the law learned in class. The program tests four key skills: moot court presentations, witness examination, mediation, and arbitration.

During the first year of study students are given a commercial law moot problem to work on, and they visit and present at the Magistrates Court in either Melbourne, Geelong or Warrnambool.

Other parts of the program — which are spread out over the four to five years of a law degree — involve students participating in a witness

The aim is to make students think on their feet in terms of legal counsel.

examination, mediation and arbitration, usually appearing before practising solicitors and barristers.

Ms Macken said the aim was to make students think on their feet in terms of legal counsel.

The Practical Skills program will be incorporated this week within a wider faculty of business and law program — Professionals Week — which will run from August 18 to 22.

During the week students in the faculty of business and law's five schools — the business school, school of management and marketing, school of information systems, school of law, and school of accounting, economics and finance — will participate in a wide range of workshops, seminars and events aimed to develop the practical skills needed in business and law.

About 70 events will be held across the university's three campuses.

August 18, 2008

INSIDE



Deakin takes the stress out of first-year law
Rachel Lebihan, page 34

The Deakin first year transition program in law was also in
The Financial Review,
18 August 2008

Evaluation: But ...

Where does a lecturer draw the line?

And what is my role?

<phone call>

Claire, I've decided to end it all...

3 Key Lessons Learnt

1. Just-in-Time !

Transition must be integrated and include social, academic and personal support at discipline-level, underpinned by institutional models & support

2. Pocket-books of Engagement

‘Tucked away’ teaching strategies, only pulled out for the purpose of student learning

3. Courage

Step out of your old lecturing shoes for a moment!

“To master anything ... Requires effort. But it does not require unpleasant effort, drudgery. The main task of any teacher is to make a subject interesting.” (Ramsden page 94 quoting Sayer 1943: 9)

Clarifications? Ideas?
Questions?

