

Jurisprudence

Module title			
Jurisprudence			
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	Module number / reference	ECTS Value	Duration
Level 8 NFQ	LLBH - JRSP	5 ECTS	12 weeks.
Parent programme(s). Principal programme title, and embedded(s) if relevant		Stage of parent programme	Semester No.
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)		3	1 or 2
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Criminal Justice		3	1 or 2
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Commercial Law		3	1 or 2
Teaching and Learning modes	Proportion (% of Total Directed Learning)		
Classroom / Face to Face	19%		
Workplace			
Online			
Other (Identify)	81% (Independent Research and Learning)		
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)			
Please see section 4.2 for full details of entry requirements.			
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	Sixty (60)		
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours¹ per week	2		
Pre-requisite module title(s) (if any)	None		
Co-requisite module title(s) (if any)	No		
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No		
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)			
Requirements are for the lecturer to utilise a PC with Microsoft Office, Zoom and access to the internet through which an individual can gain access to the Griffith College student intranet: Moodle. There are no further software requirements for this module. In relation to Microsoft Office the lecturer will require to use PowerPoint or Word to present the information to the learners. Zoom will be required in conjunction with Microsoft Office in order to record the lectures when the module is being delivered for block release or for the Blended Programme when organised in advance. Zoom will also be required for the seminars through which the module will be taught (block release).			
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module			

¹ Effort while in contact with staff

Role e.g. Tutor, Mentor etc	Qualifications & experience required:	# of Staff with this profile (WTEs ²)
Lecturer	Lecturers expected to hold at least a level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification. It is an advantage to have completed the Certificate in Education, Learning and Development provided by Griffith College.	0.25 WTE

Analysis of required learning effort		
*Effort while in contact with staff	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours
Classroom and demonstrations	1:60	24
Mentoring and small-group teaching	-	-
Other (specify)	-	-
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning (hours)		-
Independent Learning (hours)		101
Other hours (specify)		-
Work-based learning hours of learning effort		-
Total Effort (hours)		125

Allocation of Marks					
	Continuous Assessment	Supervised Project	Proctored Practical Exam.	Proctored Written Exam	Total
Percentage Contribution	30			70	100%

Module aims and objectives

This module aims to provide the learner with a holistic understanding of the concepts of traditional Jurisprudence, thereby encouraging the development of a critical, insightful and philosophical mind-set in the learner. It also aims to build the capacity of learners, in the light of their studies, to develop a critical perspective on other law subjects and to develop their skills in formal debate and reasoning.

Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

- (i) Fully comprehend and embed the fundamental principles of jurisprudence and the philosophy of law in term of core areas of traditional jurisprudence.
- (ii) Evaluate and critically conceptualise the principles of Jurisprudence that pertain to major schools of jurisprudential thought.
- (iii) Explain and analyse the principles of Jurisprudence that pertain to law and morality, autonomy and legitimate restriction, and contemporary jurisprudential debates.

² WTE is the whole-time equivalent number. The number 1 indicates a fulltime person fully dedicated to the programme. 0.5 indicates a part-time person available to this programme half of the time.

- (iv) Research, interpret and apply the theories of jurisprudence;
- (v) Communicate and analyse jurisprudential arguments with clarity and precision.
- (vi) Be enabled to develop a holistic understanding of the principles of conventional Jurisprudence.

Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall MIPLOs

Jurisprudence is a required module for learners in their award year. Jurisprudence is a traditional area of study for undergraduate law learners and provides them with a theoretical understand of the content and operation of legal systems. They are also able, upon completion, to adopt a critically reflective position with regard to the extant legal system and identify opportunities for its enhancement. Learners are also empowered in this module to deploy jurisprudential theories and concepts in order to resolve legal cases and controversies. As a practical consideration, it is still a required subject which learners must have completed in order to sit entrance examination to the King's Inns, and equally serve theme in a general sense in their analysis of the law, whether that be in the context of legal practice, academia, or cognate fields.

The Module serves to directly underpin programme-learning outcomes (iv) critically analysing the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of the law and (iii) conceptualising and communicating legal arguments with clarity and precision. This module also directly underpins the Programme Minimum Learning Outcomes (i), (ii), (vi), (ix) and (xi).

Information provided to learners about the module

The learners will have in their possession their Faculty Handbooks from their previous year. The Faculty Handbook provides general information about the faculty, its staffing, resources, and operation. Detailed programme information is supplied through Moodle, including copies of the approved module descriptors from the accredited programme (detailing related teaching, learning and assessment) along with a programme timetable. Another copy will be provided to the learners upon their request.

During the first class of the Module, learners are given a detailed outline of the Module showing the schedule of delivery and the dates when assignments are released and due for submission.

Moodle is used to provide learners with ongoing access to module related information, from the handbooks and module outlines provided in advance of the module commencement, the lecture material and links to related resources provided on a scheduled basis in line with the module delivery.

Module content, organisation and structure

This module is delivered over 12 weeks with two hours of lecture for each of those weeks. The subject matter covered by the course is organised along the following headings:

- Introduction to Jurisprudence
- Positivism
- Natural Law
- Law and Morality
- Autonomy and Legitimate Restriction

- Dworkin
- Legal Realism

Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

The module is delivered by means of participative lectures which consist of tutorial-style discussions, group work sessions and exercises. Formative assessment is provided through tutorial-style discussion, group work and exercises focus on specific case law and problem-based learning requiring the learner to analyse the law and apply it to concrete cases of human rights abuses. The lectures are supplemented by structured on-line resources and reading.

In order to support learners through the exam process, they engage in answering of sample exam questions and correction of their own and peers' papers, thereby familiarising themselves with the module learning outcomes and marking criteria. Learners also engage in workshops and online discussion forums to complement and reinforce their learning.

Learners undertaking the course via blended learning benefit from varied and additional options for engagement to compensate their reduced attendance of campus. These include webinars, screencasts (recorded lectures), discussion fora, and increased use of the College's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), Moodle.

In addition to what has been stated, classroom assessment and benchmarking techniques are deployed to encourage learners to develop more agency in terms of their own learning including in-class presentations, group work, peer-review exercises and reflective practice. The variety of teaching, learning and assessment techniques reflect an enhanced emphasis on skills acquisition to deepen practical knowledge. Finally, the attention of learners is drawn to current industry practice and technology used in the specific area of law to add a further dimension to learning, tracking the actual practice of legal professionals.

Work-based learning and practice-placement

Jurisprudence is a class based 5 ECTS credit module and does not require work-based learning and practice placement.

E-learning

Moodle, the College Virtual Learning Environment is used to disseminate notes, advice, and online resources to support the learners. E-learning activities include learner feedback, forums where learners contribute, formative quizzes and video links. The learners will also have access to a number of other online resources through the library such as access to databases and research tools (Westlaw.ie, Westlaw.uk, JustisOne (vLex) and Hein Online) as well as access to online copies of books published from Bloomsbury Online.

Module physical resource requirements

Requirements are for the lecturer to utilise a PC with Microsoft Office, Zoom and access to the internet through which an individual can gain access to the Griffith College student intranet: Moodle. There are no further software requirements for this module. In relation to Microsoft Office the lecturer will require to use PowerPoint or Word to present the information to the learners. Zoom will be required in conjunction with Microsoft Office in order to record the lectures when the module is being delivered for block release or for the Blended Programme

when organised in advance. Zoom will also be required for the seminars through which the module will be taught (block release).

Reading lists and other information resources

Primary reading

- Bix, B.H. (2023) *Jurisprudence: Theory and Context*. London: Sweet & Maxwell
- Freeman, M. (2014) *Lloyd's Introduction to Jurisprudence*. London: Sweet and Maxwell
- Hart, H.L.A. (2012) *The Concept of Law*. Oxford: OUP
- Keating, A. (2022) *Jurisprudence*. Dublin: Clarus Press
- Nussbaum, M. (2011) *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*. Cambridge, MA; Harvard University Press
- Riddall, J.G. (2005) *Jurisprudence*. Oxford: OUP
- Sen, A. and Nussbaum, M. (1993) *The Quality of Life*. Oxford: OUP
- Sen, A. (1999) *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: OUP

Secondary reading

- Devlin, P. (2010) *The Enforcement of Morals*. Oxford: OUP
- Dworkin, R. (2013) *Justice for Hedgehogs*. Harvard University Press
- Dworkin, R. (2013) *Taking Rights Seriously*. Bloomsbury Press
- Dworkin, R. (2006) *Justice in Robes*. Cambridge: HUP
- Dworkin, R. (2006) *Law's Empire*. Hart Publishing.
- Finnis, J. (2011) *Natural Law and Natural Rights*. Clarendon Press.
- Finnis, J. (1998) *Aquinas: moral, political and legal theory*. Oxford: OUP
- Harris, J.W. (2004) *Legal Philosophies*. Oxford: OUP
- Kelly, J.M. (2001) *A Short History of Western Legal Theory*. Oxford: OUP
- Menand (2002) *The Metaphysical Club*. London: Flamingo
- Murphy, T. (2004) *Western Jurisprudence*. Dublin: Round Hall
- Rawls, J. (2010) *A Theory of Justice*. Oxford: OUP
- Twining, W. (2009) *General Jurisprudence*. Cambridge: CUP

e-Resources

- Bloomsbury Professional Online
- JustisOne – Vlex
- Westlaw.ie
- Westlaw UK
- Heinonline
- Griffith College Library Website

Specifications for module staffing requirements

Lecturers qualified to at least a Level 8 legal qualification (LLB (Honours), preferably with a professional legal qualification and a third level teaching qualification (e.g. Certificate in Education, Learning and Development offered by Griffith College). Learners also benefit from the support of the Programme Director, Faculty Administrators, a dedicated Learning Technologist Office, the Learning Supports Office, at least one Learner Representative for each Stage, the Students' Union and a free (off campus) Counselling Service.

Module summative assessment strategy

Theoretical knowledge is assessed through submission of a written assignment worth 30% and by an end of module examination worth 70% of the total marks in this subject. The assignment requires research and structured, critical analysis of a topic within Jurisprudence. The final examination assesses learners' progress toward the learning outcomes for the Jurisprudence module by requiring them to produce critical analyses of concepts and theories identified in the course.

The following table indicates the module's learning outcomes' alignment with the assessment used for the module:

No.	Description	MIMLOs	Weighting
1	Assignment (3,500 words)	iv	30%
2	Exam	i-iii, v, vi	70%

Reassessment/Repeat assessment strategy: Griffith College regulations state that learners must pass all component elements of the module to be deemed to have passed the module.

- In the event of a learner failing components of / this module, they will be required to submit a new individual repeat assignment which will be made available on Moodle to learners, and which must be submitted as per faculty instructions.
- In the event of a learner failing the group assessment element of this module, a new individual repeat assignment will be made available on Moodle to learners which must be submitted as per faculty instructions.
- In the event of the learner failing the exam, learners will take the re-sit exam at the next available sitting, details of which will be made available to learners via Moodle.

Sample assessment materials

Please see sample assessment supplementary document.