

191-211 Law, Justice and Social Change

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2009, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week Total Time Commitment: 3 contact hours/week , 5.5 additional hours/week. Total of 8.5 hours per week.
Prerequisites:	Recommended: Completion of Level 1 subject <i>Law in Society</i> .
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	<p>For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry.</p> <p>It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability</p>
Coordinator:	Dr Jennifer Balint
Contact:	Dr. Jennifer Balint jbalint@unimelb.edu.au
Subject Overview:	Law, Justice and Social Change examines the ways in which law can be seen as both an instrument of positive social change and yet also as a means of confirming existing social arrangements and resisting social change. It considers what access to justice entails, investigating a series of case studies and theoretical perspectives concerning the struggles for access to justice and involvement in legal processes and institutions by particular groups and individuals. It looks at a selection of issues such as gender politics, ethnicity, race, disability, indigenous politics, non-English speaking background, class and economic struggles, sexual orientation and social dissent. Students choose a current law reform issue to consider in light of the issues discussed in the course, and visit a community legal centre or government body to interview a staff member involved in writing a report or submission that advocates for legal change. These issues and organisations have in the past included the Disability Discrimination Act (The Office of the Public Advocate), Racial and Religious Vilification (Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs), the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement (Department of Justice Victoria), Same Sex Relationships and the Law and Reproductive Technology and Adoption (Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria), Homelessness and Poverty (Public Interest Law Clearing House), Electro Convulsive Therapy (Mental Health Legal Centre), Unfair Dismissal Protection for Casual Workers (JobWatch), Refugee Rights (Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre), Child Custody Arrangements (Women's Legal Service Victoria), a Children and Young People's Commission (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria), Right to Silence (Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service).
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # have examined the ways in which law can be seen as both an instrument of positive social change and yet also a means of confirming existing social arrangements and resisting social change; # have investigated theoretical perspectives on law, justice and the community; # have investigated a series of case studies concerning the struggles for access to justice and involvement in legal processes and institutions by particular groups and individuals;

	# have looked at a selection of issues such as gender politics, ethnicity, race, indigenous politics, sexual orientation, class and economic struggles, social dissent and non-English speaking background. individuals.
Assessment:	A 1500-word report and an informal class presentation on report 35% (due mid-semester) and a 2500-word research essay 65% (due during the examination period).
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available from the University Bookshop
Breadth Options:	<p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Bachelor of Biomedicine (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/J07) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/F04) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/A04) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/M05) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/R01) # Bachelor of Engineering (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/355-AA) <p>You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p>
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # have considerable capacity for independent critical thought and self-directed learning; # have significant cognitive, analytical and problem-solving skills; # understand complex concepts and express them lucidly in writing and orally; # have advanced awareness of cultural, ethnic and gender diversities and their implications; # have an ability to plan work and to use time effectively.
Notes:	<p><i>Formerly available as 191-211. Student who have completed 191-211 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.</i></p> <p>Available as a Breadth subject</p>
Related Course(s):	Diploma in Arts (Criminology) Graduate Certificate in Criminology
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	Criminology Criminology Criminology Criminology Major Socio-legal Studies Major Sociology Sociology Sociology Sociology Major