

SOLS20001 Law, Justice and Social Change

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2012, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 1 x 1.5 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial per week. Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Criminology, Sociology or Socio-Legal Studies at Level 1
Non Allowed Subjects:	191-211 Law, Justice and Social Change
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr Nesam Mcmillan
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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 interview a staff member from a community legal centre or government body 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"> # to examine 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. # to explore theoretical perspectives on law, justice and the community. # to critically analyse a series of case studies concerning the struggles for access to justice and involvement in legal processes and institutions by particular groups and individuals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # to consider a selection of issues such as gender politics, ethnicity, race, indigenous politics, sexual orientation, class and economic struggles, social dissent and the experience of 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. Group work is an integral part of this subject. Accordingly, tutorial attendance is mandatory from Week 1. This subject has a minimum Hurdle Requirement of 80% Tutorial attendance. Students who fail to meet this hurdle requirement will be deemed ineligible to submit the final piece of assessment or sit the final examination. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per working day. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available for purchase 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/2012/B-BMED) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2012/B-COM) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2012/B-ENVS) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2012/B-MUS) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2012/B-SCI) <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:	Available as a Breadth subject to non-Bachelor of Arts students
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>Criminology Criminology Criminology Criminology Major Socio-legal Studies Major Sociology Sociology Sociology Sociology Major</p>
Related Breadth Track(s):	Law and Justice