

SOLS20001 Law, Justice and Social Change

Credit Points:	12.5
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2016, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 30 contact hours: 1 x 1.5 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial per week for 12 weeks. Total Time Commitment: Total of 170 hours
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Criminology, Sociology or Socio-Legal Studies at Level 1
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
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
Contact:	nesamcm@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:nesamcm@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 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).
Learning Outcomes:	On completion of this subject students should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Be able 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; # Be able to explore theoretical perspectives on law, justice and the community; # 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"> # 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; # Work productively in groups.
Assessment:	<p>A 1500 word report and an informal class presentation on report (40%) due mid-semester. A 2500-word research essay (60%) due during the examination period. Hurdle requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 75% of tutorials in order to pass this subject. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Note: 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.</p>
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available.
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/2016/B-BMED) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-COM) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-ENVS) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-MUS) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/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
Notes:	<p>Available as a Breadth subject to non-Bachelor of Arts students</p> <p>Students are expected to attend tutorials from Week 1 in order to fulfil the participation / group work requirements of the subject.</p>
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>200 Point Master of Criminology Criminology Criminology Major Graduate Certificate in Arts - Criminology Graduate Certificate in Arts - Sociology Graduate Diploma in Arts - Criminology Graduate Diploma in Arts - Sociology Law and Justice Sociology</p>