

# LAWS 3040 ISLAMIC LAW IN A CHANGING WORLD

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 101465

**Coordinator** Jan Ali ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jan Ali/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jan%20Ali/))

**Description** This subject introduces students to Islamic legal theory, its sources and principles, and its application by different schools and scholars to derive religious verdicts. Students will study efforts to 'streamline' Islamic law through a number of Sunni and Shiite schools, various conceptions of shari'ah, and modern attempts at law reform through dynamic scholarship and ijtihad (independent judgment). Upon completion, students should be able to explain developments in Islamic legal thought within their socio-historical contexts, and identify key debates among Muslim scholars. Using current case studies, students will also study Islamic law issues affecting Muslims today, especially Muslim minorities.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Law, Not Elsewhere Classified.

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** HUMN 1061 Islam Past Present and Future OR PHIL 2011 The Qur'an An Introduction

## Restrictions

Successful completion of 60 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of historical and theoretical methods of research relevant to Islamic law
2. Critically assess the developments in Islamic legal thought and their socio-historical contexts
3. Demonstrate an analytical appreciation of key debates about Islamic law.

## Subject Content

Introduction to Islamic Law in a Changing World  
 The Islamic conception of justice  
 Shariah and Fiqh: Conception and definitions  
 Sources I: Revealed (Quran and Prophetic Traditions)  
 Sources II: Non-revealed (Ijtihad)  
 Evolution and Development  
 Major schools of legal thought (Madhahib)  
 Goals, Purpose, and Objectives (Maqasid)  
 Rights, Democracy, State, and Shariah  
 Crime and Punishment (Hudud)  
 International law in Islam (Siyar)  
 Islamic Law and Muslim Minorities  
 Contemporary implementation and reform

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Essay	1,500 words	30	N	Individual	Y
Critical Review	1000 words	30	N	Individual	Y
Essay	2,000 words	40	N	Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

## Spring (2025)

### Bankstown City

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Jan Ali ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jan Ali/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jan%20Ali/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=LAWS3040\\_25-SPR\\_BK\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS3040_25-SPR_BK_1#subjects))