

# LAWS 2008 GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC LAW

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 200984

**Coordinator** Elen Seymour (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elen Seymour/>)

**Description** Government and Public Law introduces students to the field of public law and the operation of government in Australia. The subject has four key focus areas: Public Law in Australia, How Government Works, Government Accountability and Integrity, and Individuals and Government. The subject is intended to provide an overview of government and public law in Australia and develops students' statutory interpretation skills as they relate to an expression of the constitutional relationship between the arms of government. The subject provides a foundation for the later study of Administrative Law and Constitutional Law.

**School Law**

**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 2 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** LAWS 1003 OR  
LAWS 1006

**Incompatible Subjects** LAWS 3010 - Commercial Transactions Law

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Discuss the history and operation of government in Australia;
2. Examine key areas of public law in Australia;
3. Apply public law to issues relating to human rights and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
4. Develop critical thinking, statutory interpretation and academic communication skills'.

## Subject Content

1. Public Law in Australia

- The idea of Public Law
- Development of Public Law in Australia
- Foundational public law values

2. How Government Works

- The Parliament
- The Executive
- The Judiciary
- Intermediate Statutory interpretation: an exploration of statutory interpretation as an expression of the constitutional relationship between the arms of government, including State constitutions
- International Law and the Australian legal system

3. Individuals and Government

- Human Rights
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Public Law

4. Government Accountability and Integrity

- Executive Accountability to Parliament
- Public Investigatory Bodies
- Misconduct by public officials

## 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
Reflection	3*500 words (1,500 words)	15	N	Individual	Y
Professional Task	2,000 words	35	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	2 hours	50	N	Individual	Y

### Prescribed Texts

- Lisa Burton-Crawford, Janina Boughey, Maria O'Sullivan and Melissa Castan, *Public Law and Statutory Interpretation: Principles and practice* (The Federation Press, 2nd ed, 2021) ISBN: 9781760022860

### Teaching Periods

## Spring (2025)

### Campbelltown

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Shreeya Smith (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Shreeya Smith/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=LAWS2008\\_25-SPR\\_CA\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS2008_25-SPR_CA_1#subjects))

#### Online

#### Online

**Subject Contact** Elen Seymour (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elen Seymour/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=LAWS2008\\_25-SPR\\_ON\\_2#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS2008_25-SPR_ON_2#subjects))

### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Elizabeth Handsley (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elizabeth Handsley/>)

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=LAWS2008\\_25-SPR\\_PS\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS2008_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects))