

LAWS 7066 PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LEGAL ETHICS

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 201049

Coordinator Michael Brogan ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Michael Brogan/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Michael%20Brogan/))

Description This subject provides students with the opportunity to critically reflect on the legal, statutory and ethical principles and standards that underpin the professional obligations of legal practitioners. Students will also analyse ethical issues that commonly occur in professional legal practice in contemporary multicultural Australia, particularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It deals with the professional, legal and ethical responsibilities legal practitioners owe to the law, the courts, their clients and to fellow practitioners, as well as the state and society at large. Students will be able to explain and evaluate the law and practice of legal practitioners, by reference to key topics, such as: professionalism; legal ethics; the history, structure and regulation of the legal profession; and the interpersonal, psychological and cultural factors affecting lawyering. Guided by an ethical decision-making model, students will demonstrate their ability to use primary legal materials to answer legal ethical problems, and explore the relationship between personal and professional attitudes and values by reflecting on their own views and observations.

School Law

Discipline Legal Practice

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Co-requisite(s) LAWS 7056 Fundamentals of Australian Law

Incompatible Subjects LAWS 2015 Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in a postgraduate program.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Reflect on the legal, statutory and ethical principles and standards that underpin the professional obligations of legal practitioners;
2. Analyse ethical issues that commonly occur in professional legal practice in contemporary multicultural Australia, particularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
3. Recommend appropriate strategies to avoid legal and ethical risks in professional legal practice
4. Propose arguments to support or counter propositions for reform in legal ethics
5. Develop their own ethical framework by exploring the relationship between personal and professional attitudes and values and by observing lawyers in practice.

Subject Content

- The legal profession: Issues, ethics and lawyering
- Professional communication (including cultural Understanding)
- Duty to The Law, Courts and Fellow practitioners
- Duty to clients (including Basic principles of trust accounting)
- Admission, professional misconduct and discipline
- Psychology and Ethical decision making

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	750 words	S/U	N	Individual	Y
Quiz	20 minutes	10	N	Individual	Y
Viva Voce	20 minutes	50	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	24 hours	40	N	Individual	Y

Prescribed Texts

- Dal Pont, *Lawyers' Professional Responsibility* (Thomson Reuters, 8th Edition, 2024)

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Campbelltown

On-site

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS7066_25-AUT_CA_1#subjects)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS7066_25-AUT_ON_2#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS7066_25-AUT_PS_1#subjects)