Legal Skills: 2009

This course is a compulsory course for Penultimate Year LLB.

The course has been introduced to counter problems that the legal profession is having with new law graduates who lack certain basic generic skills necessary for a legal career.

The course consists of five modules ('blocks') that are taught one after the other. Assessment will be by way of test or assignment, and moots.   There will be no exam at the end of the course.

The modules, in order of presentation (percentage of total mark allocation indicated in brackets) are:

Module	% of total mark	Presenter
Numeracy	(15%)	Dr Bruce Brown
Legal argument and moots	(30%)	Adv Les Roberts
Legal writing	(15%)	Ms Anjanette Haller-Barker
Legal research	(20%)	Prof Graham Glover
Applied logic and critical reasoning	(20%)	Ms Anjanette Haller-Barker

Note: Although there is no subminimum for any module to pass the course as a whole, there is a separate rule requiring students to have passed the Numeracy component in order to graduate LLB. This means that students who fail Numeracy will have to repeat a test and pass it during the next year or later.

Course co-ordinator: Adv Les Roberts

Handouts, etc, will be provided in due course by the individual lecturers.

Note that while the main part of the course will be done in the two official lecture slots as per the timetable, there will be special arrangements for the Numeracy component (see separate notice).

Outcomes for Numeracy

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to do the following:
* Be numerate at the level required for the numeracy component of the attorneys' admission
* Competently apply the following mathematical skills:

- Basic number sense and calculation skills involving the following number systems:
  - Whole numbers
  - Integers
  - Rational numbers (represented as fractions, decimals or percentages).
- Simple algebra; representing quantities symbolically and manipulating such symbols.
- Functions and relationships; in particular:
  - Proportion and rates
  - Linear functions
  - Exponential functions
  - The amortization function
- Plotting and reading simple graphs; in particular, graphs of the above relationships
- Applications of the above concepts and skills to situations relevant to the legal profession.

Outcomes for Moots/Legal Argument

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- On a supplied set of facts prepare heads of argument suitable for a moot court (and thus for a real legal argument in court) which comply technically with court requirements, and which succinctly and logically provide an outline of the argument which will be delivered orally subsequently;
- Present an oral legal legal argument in a moot court setting in a logical, coherent and distinct fashion, and competently respond to questions posed from the bench during the course of the argument.

Outcomes for Legal Writing

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Use punctuation as a guide to meaning
- Communicate clearly and concisely in writing in plain English.

Outcomes for Legal Research

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and understand the various legal research resources, methodologies and techniques that are available to a law student and a lawyer;
- Utilise the various legal research resources, methodologies and techniques in order to solve practical legal problems.

Outcomes for Applied Logic and Legal Reasoning

At the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Analyse the concepts of applied logic and critical reasoning in the context of the study of Law;
- Organise their approach to legal research, and their production of verbal and written work, in a logical and systematic manner;
- Apply the process of critical reasoning in their construction of legal arguments and opinion.