

LAWS11069 *Torts*

Term 1 - 2026

Profile information current as at 16/03/2026 12:20 am

All details in this unit profile for LAWS11069 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit introduces you to the law of Torts in Australia as one of the main categories in the law of civil obligations. Along with Contract law, this unit will provide you with a solid foundation in many of the civil law issues faced in legal practice. You will gain an understanding of civil wrongs as developed by the common law yet increasingly supplemented by legislation. This unit will commence with an overview of tort law, its development and aims. You will also study the torts of negligence, trespass, nuisance and defamation, including available defences. Forms of concurrent liability are also considered along with remedies in tort and alternative statutory compensation schemes. Finally, the unit will consider the protection available in tort from unfair business practices. Tort law is constantly evolving and often raises unique and complex social and moral questions. The unit will develop your ability to think critically about the relationship of law to social, economic and political conditions. This unit meets the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board requirements for Torts.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: *10*

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Co-requisite: LAWS11057 Introduction to Law.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2026

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. Written Assessment

Weighting: 50%

2. Examination

Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback - Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from End-of-term Unit Coordinator Report

Feedback

Fail rate above 25%

Recommendation

Reintroducing the weekly quizzes, weighted at 10% of the final grade, is likely to enhance students' academic performance, as was observed in previous offerings of the unit.

Feedback from Students' emails, unit evaluations and self-reflection

Feedback

Two-hour tutorials

Recommendation

Maintain the two-hour tutorial format, as it allows sufficient time to explore and discuss key legal concepts in depth, while promoting higher levels of student engagement and participation.

Feedback from Students' emails, unit evaluations and self-reflection

Feedback

Engaging and interactive tutorials

Recommendation

The tutorials should continue to be delivered in a manner that actively fosters student discussion and critical debate, using authentic, real-world legal scenarios to deepen engagement and practical understanding.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the essential elements of tort obligations and the development of tort law in response to changing social, economic and political conditions
2. Explain the principles of tort law at common law and as supplemented by the Civil Liability Act 2003 (Qld) and other legislation
3. Apply relevant legal principles and exercise legal reasoning to determine obligations, rights and remedies in tort disputes
4. Demonstrate written and oral communication skills in response to a legal scenario

This unit satisfies the Priestley 11 requirements for Torts as approved by the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level
  Introductory Level
  Intermediate Level
  Graduate Level
  Professional Level
  Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 50%	•	•	•	•
2 - Examination - 50%	•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving			•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	
4 - Information Literacy			•	•
5 - Team Work				
6 - Information Technology Competence				•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence				
8 - Ethical practice				
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - First Nations Knowledges				
11 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

LAWS11069

Prescribed

Contemporary Australian Law

Edition: 2nd (2024)

Authors: Joanna Kyriakakis et al

Cambridge University Press

Melbourne , Victoria , Australia

ISBN: 978-1-009-34877-5

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Andrea Turner Unit Coordinator

a.turner3@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to the Law of Torts	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 1	

Week 2 - 16 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Duty of Care	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 2	

Week 3 - 23 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Breach of Duty of Care	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 3	

Week 4 - 30 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Damage: Factual Causation and Scope of Liability	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 4	

Week 5 - 06 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Defences to Negligence	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 5	
Week 6 - 13 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Trespass to the Person	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 6	Written Assessment Due: Week 6 Wednesday (15 Apr 2026) 6:00 pm AEST
Vacation Week - 20 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation Week		
Week 7 - 27 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Torts Arising from Statutory Duties and Powers	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 13	
Week 8 - 04 May 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Nuisance	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 9	
Week 9 - 11 May 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vicarious Liability and Non-Delegable Duty	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 10	
Week 10 - 18 May 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Defamation and Unfair Business Practices	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 11 AND Amanda Sticklely, Australian Torts Law (4th edition, 2016) Ch. 24 (pp. 613-631 only)	
Week 11 - 25 May 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Remedies	Joanna Kyriakakis et al, Contemporary Australian Law (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2024) Ch. 12	
Week 12 - 01 Jun 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review Week		
Exam Week - 08 Jun 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week		
Vacation/Exam Week - 15 Jun 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Term Specific Information

I am generally available for consultation on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon AEST. The best way to contact me is via email: a.turner3@cqu.edu.au. My emails are checked daily.

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This written assessment involves answering two questions based on hypothetical case scenarios. It will cover any of the topics in weeks 1 to 5. The questions will be released on 1 April 2026 (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm (AEST) and answers are due on 15 April 2026 (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm (AEST). The total word count for all the answers, including footnotes, should not exceed 1000 words.

There is no allowance beyond the word-count limit. Any text that exceeds the 1000-word count limit will not be marked. Extensions of more than 14 days are not available for this assessment. Due to the need to provide prompt feedback to students and the content of feedback provided, submissions received after the assessment has been returned to students cannot be accepted for academic integrity reasons. Students seeking extensions beyond this timeframe will be required to undertake a different version of the assessment task.

Instructions on the Use of AI

This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity.

Level 3: You may use AI to assist with specific tasks such as drafting text, and refining and evaluating your work. You must critically evaluate and modify any AI-generated content you use.

You must not use AI to generate an answer for you.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Wednesday (15 Apr 2026) 6:00 pm AEST

The answers must be saved in MS Word (not as a PDF) in the following format: LastName_FirstName.docx.

Return Date to Students

Estimated return time is two weeks from the due date. Papers will be returned once all submissions, including those with authorised extensions have been marked.

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

This assessment will be assessed according to the following criteria: correct and thorough identification of the legal issue(s) (10%) and rules/legal principles (30%); correct and thorough analysis and application of the rules and legal principles to the legal issue(s) and the facts (40%); well thought-out conclusion (10%); and quality of the language usage and observance of proper structure, format, and instructions (10%).

A detailed marking rubric is available on the Moodle site.

Referencing Style

- [Australian Guide to Legal Citation, 4th ed](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Answers must be submitted in MS Word and not as a PDF.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the essential elements of tort obligations and the development of tort law in response to changing social, economic and political conditions
- Explain the principles of tort law at common law and as supplemented by the Civil Liability Act 2003 (Qld) and other legislation
- Apply relevant legal principles and exercise legal reasoning to determine obligations, rights and remedies in tort disputes
- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills in response to a legal scenario

Examination

Outline

Complete an invigilated examination.

Date

During the examination period at a CQUniversity examination centre.

Weighting

50%

Length

150 minutes

Exam Conditions

Open Book.

Materials

Dictionary - non-electronic, concise, direct translation only (dictionary must not contain any notes or comments).

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem