

Syllabus Outline: Introduction to Law

NQF Level 5

Textbook: Beginner's Guide for Law Students
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Disclaimer: Please note the following:

- A prescribed textbook may not necessarily cover every aspect of a syllabus. The Institute examines the syllabus and any omissions should be researched personally or be provided by your tuition provider.
- ISBN numbers may have changed since the publication of this list. Our policy is that you should always use the latest edition of the textbook.
- Many publishers are no longer publishing hard copies and have switched to e-books.
- Some modules require prescribed readings which can be downloaded for personal use from the internet or the CSSA student portal.

Aim: To familiarise students with the structure of the legal system and legal framework within which entities operate. Students will be equipped with a general understanding of basic legal concepts relevant to their profession.

| Syllabus topics | Syllabus detailed content | Textbook |
|---|--|---|
| Learning Outcome 1: Demonstrate a basic understanding of the concept of "law" | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal rules and other rules (i.e. rules of conduct) • the characteristics of legal rules • how legal rules are created | 1 The Law |
| Learning Outcome 2: Identify the various sources of South African law | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of SA law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African court structure • The impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 | 2 History and Sources of South African Law |
| Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate a basic understanding of how statutes should be interpreted | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of statutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure of a statute and a court case (i.e. tax case law, Companies Act) | 2 History and Sources of South African Law |
| Learning Outcome 4: Comprehend the importance of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and human rights in the South African context | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution and the Bill of Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights | 12 The Constitution 13 Human Rights |
| Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate a basic understanding of the classification of the law; the basic tenets of the law of civil procedure, criminal law and law of evidence | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification of the law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework of the different branches of the law | 3 Classification of the Law 4 Aspects of Private Law 5 Law of Civil Procedure 6 Aspects of Criminal Law 7 Law of Criminal Procedure 8 Law and the Business World |

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| Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate a basic understanding of legal argument and logic and know what legal language entails | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language of law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal language Clear and logical arguments | 15 Language and the Law 16 Legal Argument and Logic 27 Legal Research |
| Learning Outcome 7: Understand the relevance of legal comparison | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal comparison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal comparison | 14 Legal Comparison |
| Learning Outcome 8: Understand the role of the courts and alternative mechanisms of dispute resolution | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispute resolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms of dispute resolution Alternative dispute resolution | 10 Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution |
| Learning Outcome 9: Demonstrate a basic understanding of the law of contract | | |
| Basic principles of the law of contract | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract – basic principles of valid contracts Principles of breach of contract | Supplementary notes and youtubes (see below) |

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| Practical work | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the structure of the South African courts and how court cases are conducted Attend a civil case and a criminal case at a High Court or a Magistrate’s Court or watch a case being conducted online Undertake an online tour of the Constitutional Court: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSH7ToW1NsM | | |

Online resources:

The Constitution of South Africa: <https://youtu.be/ka3V2SgYD98>

Human rights: <https://youtu.be/oLdVUI2OVzg>

Basic principles of contract: <https://youtu.be/6QWZXL-qWos>

Introduction to contractual terms: <https://youtu.be/GpbmWh2Qlj4>;

Elements of a contract: https://youtu.be/eRZNJ_8FYPg

Breach of contract: <https://youtu.be/8OTZNzbeTck>; <https://youtu.be/We-1Cm3cWeM>; <https://youtu.be/Bso6aLYrrc>;