LAW 701  
2019  
The Legal System: Sources, Structure and Method  

Lecturer Biography  

**Dr Edward Willis**  
Edward is a lecturer at the University of Auckland School of Law. He is interested in all aspects of public law with particular interests in constitutional theory, administrative decision-making, the theory and practice of regulation and competition (antitrust) law. He has previously practised as a solicitor for government and private sector clients. His 2012 article “On Regulatory Uncertainty” won the Rex Mason prize for best published article. He has a Masters Degree in Law from Victoria University of Wellington and a PhD from the University of Auckland.

**Nikki Chamberlain**  
Nikki Chamberlain is a Lecturer at the University of Auckland Law School. Before joining the University of Auckland, Nikki lectured Legal Writing at Vanderbilt University Law School in the United States. She received her LL.M. degree from Vanderbilt University. She made the Dean’s List for Academic Excellence in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. She was also awarded the Scholastic Excellence Award for Introduction to Legal Research, Writing and Analysis in the United States. She received her B.A./LL.B. (Hons) degree from the University of Auckland. She received a Senior Prize in her B.A. degree.

Prior to lecturing, Nikki practiced eight years as a Commercial Litigator at a large commercial law firm in Auckland, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts. She was a Senior Associate and practiced in a number of commercial law areas including contract law, tort law, company law, family law, insolvency law, trust litigation and estate litigation. Her clients included Bank of New Zealand, Goldman Sachs, GE Money, Bank of Scotland, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Westpac New Zealand Limited, ASB Bank Limited, HSBC, New Zealand Racing Board, New Zealand Crane Group, Dun & Bradstreet (NZ) Limited and Mona Dotcom. She represented a number of high net-worth individuals in their relationship property disputes. She appeared as counsel in the New Zealand Court of Appeal, the High Court, the District Court and the Family Court. She has expertise in a number of areas, including Torts, the Law of Family Property and New Zealand and American Civil Procedure.

**Course Outline**  
The course is an introduction to the New Zealand legal system and the process of legal reasoning. It will consider the core substantive components of the New Zealand legal system, the sources of New Zealand law (including statute, case law and custom), the influence of international law, legal methodology in theory and practice (including: judicial reasoning and the doctrine of precedent), techniques of statutory interpretation, and the resolution of disputes.

**Syllabus**  
The syllabus will include a study of the following aspects:
• Concept and sources of law
• Structure of government and process of lawmaking
• New Zealand court system
• Statutory interpretation
• Common law theory

The syllabus will also include 4 special topics where the concepts and skills learned will be applied. These are:
• Law and economics
• Comparative law
• International law
• Constitutional theory

Objectives
The primary objective of the course is to provide students with an introduction to the New Zealand legal system and the process of legal reasoning. On completion of the course students should be able to:
• Understand different theories of law
• Understand how law is made and applied in New Zealand
• Apply legal reasoning to resolve practical issues
• Undertake critical analysis on legal topics.

Assessment
Each student is required to submit a research essay of no more than 4,000 words (worth 50% of the student’s final grade). The essay is to be the original work of the student, relying on primary and secondary sources and including proper citation in footnotes.
• Semester 1: due 12 noon, Monday 3rd June 2019.

In addition there will be 2 take-home assignments, each worth 25% of the student’s final grade.
• Semester 1: Take-home assignment 1 due 12 noon, Friday 22nd March 2019.
• Semester 1: Take-home assignment 2 due 12 noon, Friday 10th May 2019.

Course Details
Semester: One or Two (Full Semester)
Day: Friday
Time: 3.00-6.00 pm
Location: Room 210
Building 803, Level 2
17 Eden Crescent
Value: 30 Points

Contact Details
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