

While it goes by many names, the most popular are Lady Justice, Scales of Justice, and Blind Justice. The statue dates its origins from ancient Greek and Roman times as the lady represented is Themis, the goddess of justice and law.

The scales that she holds represent the impartiality with which justice is served and the sword signifies the power that is held by those making the decision.

In the Legal Studies subject students are presented with two separate, yet equally important courses: the Year 11 course and the HSC course.

These are their stories.



[www.melville-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.melville-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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**MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**  
HSIE FACULTY



## Legal Studies

This course provides students with opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the nature and functions of law and law-making, the development of Australian and international legal systems, the Australian constitution and law reform. Students investigate the key areas of law, justice and human rights through a variety of focus studies which consider how changes in societies influence law reform.

## Year 11 Course Topics

Undertake several case studies to learn about the operation of the legal system.

Visit courts and learn about the trial process.

Learn about the role of a jury.

Explore the role of each court.  
Discover who works in a courtroom.

Learn about how the individual can challenge power.

Discover how the law deals with disadvantaged groups.

Know your rights as a juvenile. Learn about the juvenile justice system, the children's court and 'anti-gang' laws.

Look at current legal issues raised in the media and on television.

The death penalty was abolished in Queensland in 1922, Tasmania in 1968, the Commonwealth in 1973, Northern Territory in 1973, Victoria in 1975, South Australia in 1976, ACT in 1983, Western Australia in 1984, and New South Wales in 1985.

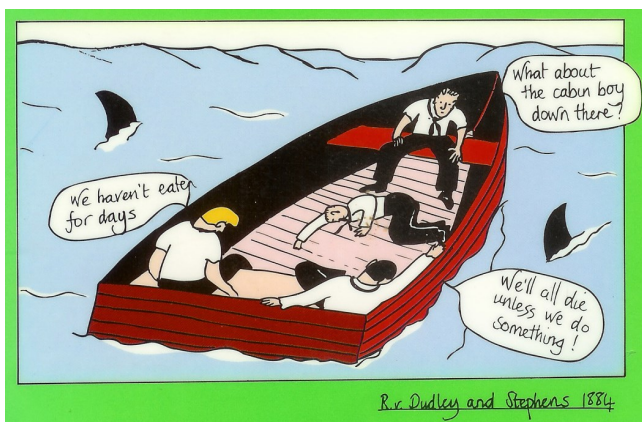
## Year 12 Course Topics

Learn about Criminal Law – Uncover famous criminal cases as you learn about murder and mayhem. Know what to do if you are arrested or have to go to court. Look at the penalties given. Discover the defences you can use to a criminal charge. Keep up-to-date with current criminal cases.

Discover the many aspects of family law. Think marriage, divorce, cloning, birth technology, the rights of children, adoption and surrogacy.

Uncover how the law deals with human rights atrocities.

Explore the topic shelter and the law. How to avoid the legal pitfalls when buying a house. Know your rights as a landlord or tenant. What to do if I am in dispute with a neighbour.?



**After a storm at sea, four men were cast adrift in a boat miles from land. They killed and ate the cabin boy and four days later they were rescued, and charged with murder. They pleaded necessity as a defence.**

## Course Specific details

### Preliminary Course

Part I – The Legal System (40% of course time)

Part II – The Individual and the Law (30% of course time)

Part III – The Law in Practice (30% of course time)



### HSC Course

Core Part I: Crime (30% of course time)

Core Part II: Human Rights (20% of course time)

Part III: Two options (50% of course time)  
Family  
Shelter

Further information about the course content and outcomes can be obtained from the website below.  
<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/legal-studies>