LW352 Special Topics in Law 1: Banking Law
Lecturer: Chinelle van der Westhuizen
Week 1: 4-8 January

Banking Law will explore the law, policies, regulation and practice of banks within Australia. It will address the relationship between customers and banks (which include the duties of the banker and customer). Furthermore it will address issues such as the law of negotiable instruments (cheques and bills of exchange); different types of accounts; lending (securities and guarantees); payment services/electronic banking (cash and electronic fund transfers); as well as documentary letters of credit. This unit will also consider current national and international issues in banking.

LW366 Environmental Law
Lecturer: Michael Voros
Week 1: 4-8 January

The aim of this unit is to explore the fundamental principles of environmental law. Legal responses to contemporary environmental challenges are assessed, including those related to: loss of biodiversity; ozone depletion; global warming; and harm to the marine environment from various activities (ranging from noise pollution to the dumping of waste at sea). Other themes explored include the nexus between human rights law and environmental law. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of environmental laws on both States and non-State actors (corporations and individuals). Particular attention is paid to: international treaties on environmental protection; domestic environmental law and policy; enforcement measures; remedies; regional mechanisms; the nexus between planning and environmental law; and the expanding field of climate change law. Emerging norms on reduction of carbon emissions and other responses to global warming are examined.

LW351 Law and War
Lecturer: Dr Lara Pratt
Week 1: 20-24 June

Examining the evolving role of law during times of armed conflict with a particular focus on international humanitarian law and international criminal law, this unit will offer both a historical and contemporary examination of the role that law has had in limiting the actions of combatants during times of war. Students will consider the legal rules derived from instruments such as the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (and their Additional Protocols of 1977) as well as the practical difficulties with enforcement of these rules. Students will also consider the development of individual criminal responsibility for breaches of these rules and the challenges associated with criminal sanction for war crimes at the international level. Particular attention will be given to the International Criminal Court. Students will consider the rules pertaining to civilians during warfare, the growing body of treaty law which limits certain types of weapons (e.g. biological and chemical weapons) and the uncertain legal implications of new forms of warfare – such as unmanned drones. They will also examine the role of various institutions and agencies in scrutinising the behaviour of states and individuals during armed conflicts.

LW353 Special Topics in Law 2: Refugee Law
Lecturer: William Byrne
Week 3: 3-8 July

An introduction to international refugee law and the human rights framework, this unit is considered in the context of Australian refugee law and practice. The unit will examine the history, sources and framework of the international and domestic system of protection; the critical question of the definition of a refugee; and the fundamental rights arising under the Refugee Convention and through new forms of 'complementary protection'. The unit will further address procedural standards, reception conditions, and the controversial trend toward the 'externalisation of asylum', as well as the fundamental problems of burden sharing, international co-operation, and prospects for reform. The course is thus historical, comparative, and socio-legal in its orientation; but also progressive, as it intends to heighten a critical awareness and an ethical resolve towards a 'refugee problem' which essentially cannot be solved. Students that undertake this unit will develop their knowledge of the relationship between international and domestic law, particularly in the way that public law can be used for the protection of non-citizens. Moreover, they will gain a firm foundation through which they could pursue a role in refugee advocacy and litigation, or further academic research at higher levels.