

STADIO

HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF LAW

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW

NQF 7 | 370 CREDITS | SAQA ID: 117948 | MIN. 3 YEARS

MODE: DISTANCE LEARNING

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

• LEGAL ADVISOR

• NEGOTIATOR

• POLITICAL ANALYST

• GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

• MEDIATOR

• ARBITRATOR

• LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

DESCRIPTION

The Bachelor of Arts in Law programme equips students to interpret and apply law and contribute to the development of the African political system. The programme also aims to offer personal and professional formation through the development of the students' leadership skills and their understanding of the Humanities within the Southern African context. The programme will enable students to serve in a variety of capacities in the private and public spheres. It will provide the student with the knowledge base, theory, methodology and application relevant to the core areas of private law. The programme will also equip students to be public intellectuals and reflexive practitioners who work for change within Africa. They will learn analytical skills to interpret the political context creatively.

They will also gain ethical leadership skills that equip them to lead and mobilise organisations and communities towards societal transformation. Students can pursue careers in law, journalism, politics, management, intelligence, and public administration. Through innovative learning approaches, the qualification promotes an inclusive and transformative ethos of reconciliation, equality, justice, and peace. The programme also serves as an alternative route for entry into the LLB (Level 8) degree.

ARTICULATION POSSIBILITIES

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Law a student may articulate Will be able to qualify for admission to a Bachelor of Laws at NQF level 8 (third year) or an Honours degree in Humanities at NQF level 8.

MODE OF DELIVERY - DISTANCE LEARNING (ONLINE DISTANCE)

The programme is offered in STADIO's **Online Distance** mode of delivery. STADIO's distance-learning programmes offer students excellent, quality education, without the requirement of having to attend compulsory venue-based classes. Distance-learning students study with flexibility wherever they are, on a study schedule that suits their circumstances.

Upon registration, distance-learning students receive access to STADIO's state-of-the-art learning management system (Canvas). Students have access to all learning materials on this platform, including a detailed plan for the semester/year indicating all the learning and assessment activities. Study material and any additional teaching resources will be available online. However, students may also request study guides in printed format, if preferred. Students will access, complete, and submit all formative assessment tasks (assignments and tests) online. Summative assessments will mostly be venue-based.

Distance-learning students may also join and participate in scheduled live lecturing sessions online, at critical points during the semester, to integrate concepts and ask questions. These classes will be presented by either the lecturer or an external professional or industry specialist. Recordings of these sessions will be available online. The schedule for the online classes will be available on the learning management system at the start of the semester.

Students will always have access to a module Question and Answer forum, where they can ask questions on the material. The lecturer will respond to their queries in this forum or during the scheduled consultation engagements. All lecturers will have weekly online consultation meetings, where students can join to ask questions or to discuss aspects of the work.

Distance learning is suited to students who want to study from wherever they are, without having to attend classes in person at a venue. Other than the requirement to submit assessment tasks on time, distance learning offers the student flexibility to plan his/her own study schedule. This option is also ideal for working adults, mature learners, or for school-leavers who enjoy learning at their own pace, live distantly from STADIO's campuses, or who have other commitments to attend to during the day. Even though learning happens at a distance, the student still has access to expert lecturers, up-to-date study material and peer engagement via the virtual learning environment. Studying via distance learning is largely enabled through technology. You need access to a computer, as well as internet connectivity, to access and submit your assessments, and to join live sessions or watch recordings online.

OUTCOMES

Students who completed the programme will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the South African legal system.
2. Read legal texts and apply legal writing skills to draft legal documents.
3. Apply the principles contained in core areas of South African private and public law.
4. Solve problems and make decisions using critical and creative thinking embedded in a humanistic paradigm.
5. Work effectively with others as members of a team, group, organisation in communities and society at large.
6. Manage the conceptualisation and implementation of strategies, policies and plans in a public sector environment with due regard to national and global contexts.
7. Promote ethical decisions on complex institutional issues with sensitivity and awareness of consequences in an autonomous manner.
8. Manage themselves and their activities responsibly and effectively to promote and strengthen tolerance and affirmation in problem-solving.
9. Collect, interpret and process data and information to make informed decisions.
10. Communicate effectively through engagement with literature from a wide variety of sources on politics, philosophy and economics.
11. Participate as responsible citizens in the life of local, national and global communities in a culturally and aesthetically sensitive way using the humanities as the central pillar.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The admission criteria for the Bachelor of Arts in Law are:

- a Senior Certificate (SC) with degree endorsement; or
- a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with a minimum of 50% in four 20-credit modules and a minimum of 40% in English Home Language or First Additional Language; or
- a National Senior Certificate – Vocational Level 4 (NC(V)) with a minimum of 50% in three fundamental modules including English; and minimum 60% in four vocational modules; or
- a relevant N6 National Diploma.

ADDITIONAL OR SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

OTHER ACCESS PATHWAYS

STADIO is committed to achieving inclusion and to overcome barriers to access and success in higher education. Applicants who do not meet the stated admission criteria, but who have relevant work experience and/or prior learning may apply for admission under the policy on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). STADIO admits a maximum of 10% per cohort via RPL. The implementation of RPL is context-specific, in terms of discipline, programme and level. Further information may be obtained from your Student Recruitment Advisor.

MATURE AGE EXEMPTION

Candidates who do not meet the requirements for degree studies listed above, but who have reached the ages of 23 or 45 respectively, may apply for Mature Age Exemption via the USAF Matriculation Board under the following conditions:

- Candidates who have reached/will reach the age of 23 during the first year of registration and who have achieved a Senior Certificate with a pass in at least four subjects, including one of the official languages experience and including one subject on Higher Grade.
- Candidates who have reached the age of 45 before or during the first year of registration.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

- **Wi-Fi:** Reliable broadband Internet access (Wi-Fi is available on all of our campuses, but you may prefer access from home as well).
- **Web browser:** Chrome/Safari/Opera/FireFox.
- **Computer/Laptop:** A current Windows or Apple Mac computer/laptop capable of running the Office 365 software (STADIO provides the software to you as a STADIO student). Office 365 includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.
- **PDF Viewer:** The free Adobe Acrobat software.
- **Scanning documents:** Ability to scan and upload documents (typically from your cellphone or smartphone).
- **Email/cellphone** for notification and communication.
- **Communication:** A cellphone or smartphone for receiving notifications and communication (additionally WhatsApp is recommended for collaborating in student groups).

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY:

STADIO School of Law uses its ONLINE student administration and learning environments to provide students with materials and resources, to conduct online assessments, create discussion opportunities and render a range of administrative services.

Therefore, having continuous access to the above ONLINE facilities is essential for efficient communication, learning and success.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOR DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS

Distance learning students have access to STADIO's student support services via the learning management system. Students can access a range of presentations and online support initiatives aimed at success and wellness. At the start of the semester, new students will be invited to join the online student orientation programme to familiarise themselves with the services offered by STADIO.

STADIO, in partnership with SADAG, has a dedicated STADIO student helpline providing students with free telephonic counselling, information, referrals, and support. Students will also have access to general counselling services.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR *	3rd YEAR *
Compulsory (All)	Academic and Creative Writing ACW152 (20 credits)	African Customary Law (10 credits)	Administrative Justice (10 credits)
	Family Law LFL162 (10 credits)	African Human Rights Law (10 credits)	Constitutional Law (20 credits)
	Introduction to Law ITL152 (15 credits)	Law of Contract (20 credits)	Law of Delict (20 credits)
	Law of Persons LOP162 (10 credits)	Law of Succession (20 credits)	Law of Property (20 credits)
	Legal Skills LSK152 (25 credits)	Politics and Government IIA (20 credits)	Politics and Government IIIA (20 credits)
	Philosophy I PHL152 (20 credits)	Politics and Government IIB (20 credits)	Politics and Government IIIB (20 credits)
	Politics and Government I POG152 (20 credits)		Politics and Government IIIC (20 credits)
Electives (choose one)		Innovation (20 credits) OR Understanding and Managing Creativity (20 credits)	
CREDITS P/YEAR	120	120	130

* 2nd year and 3rd year will be offered in the format indicated above in 2024 and 2025 respectively. For the current 2nd and 3rd year refer to the 2022 BA Law document.

MODULE PREREQUISITES

1. Politics and Government IIA and Politics and Government IIB:
 - First complete Politics and Government I.
2. Politics and Government IIIA, Politics and Government IIIB and Politics and Government III C:
 - First complete Politics and Government IIA and Politics and Government IIB.
3. Law of Succession, Law of Contract, Law of Delict, Law of Property:
 - First complete Law of Persons and Family Law.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC AND CREATIVE WRITING

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the concept of appropriate academic and creative writing in a higher education setting and equip them with the skills to apply it effectively within their specific subject areas. Students will acquire the foundational principles of academic reading and writing strategies along with strategic research methodologies and ethical research approaches. The communication and presentation of research will also play an important thematic role to assist students in developing confidence regarding the production and sharing of their own written research. Although the abovementioned focus resides in the academic world, the graduate (life-) skills of academic and creative writing form a golden thread throughout the module. Through individual and group exercises, students will therefore have the opportunity to cultivate their own critical voice for their own specific context.

ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Administrative Justice. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to the nature, development, and sources of administrative law, separation of powers, transformative constitutionalism, the legal subjects in administrative law and the administrative relationship, the concept “administrative action”, and categories of administrative actions. The module is also concerned with the enforcement of administrative actions, administrative authorities, the duties of administrators, and the requirements as to the procedure and fairness of administrative actions. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Administrative Justice to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

AFRICAN CUSTOMARY LAW

This module aims at instilling an awareness of the principles of African Customary Law that will enable reasoning and the identification and application of the principles that will guide decision-making and action in the African context. In the module, students are familiarised with basic concepts, terminology, and principles of African Customary Law. Students are familiarised with the rules and principles of African Customary Law relating to private law and criminal law, the role of traditional leadership and traditional courts, and the ascertainment and proof of Customary Law.

AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

This module aims at instilling an awareness of the principles of African Human Rights Law that will enable reasoning and the identification and application of the principles that will guide decision-making and action in the African context. This knowledge will inform application locally and internationally. In the module, students are familiarised with basic concepts, terminology, and principles of African Human Rights Law. Students are familiarised with the role and rules of the African Union, United Nations and African Commission.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Constitutional Law. The module is also concerned with the sources of Constitutional Law, the nature of the State, separation of powers and the branches of government. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Constitutional Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

FAMILY LAW

This module provides students with insight into the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Family Law. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to engagements, civil marriages, consequences of marriage, the dissolution of marriages, and the principles related to life partnerships. The module also provides students with knowledge on maintenance of a spouse or child upon divorce and the best interests of the child in divorce proceedings. Students are introduced to the sources of Family Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on Family Law.

INNOVATION

Increased global competition, technological progress, rapidly changing market conditions, and consumer demands make innovation and differentiation essential for every organisation. The purpose of this module is to introduce students to innovation as an important source of competitive advantage and economic growth. Students will explore what innovation is, how it comes about, how it is managed in an organisation, how an innovation culture is established, and how it contributes to a nation's progress.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

In this foundational module, first-time law students are introduced to the law as it stands, in accessible terms, with reference to the different sources of law and the classification of the law. In this module, it is demonstrated to students how the law affects the everyday lives of individuals and groups in South Africa. The module exposes students to the complexities of law, the contestability of the law and uncertainties that may exist in the law. Students are further exposed to human rights, legal comparison, aspects of legal language, legal comparison, and critical voices on existing law in order for them to form informed opinions about the law and legal systems. The module also exposes students to the courts, legal profession, and the implications of the transformative Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

LAW OF CONTRACT

This module provides students with knowledge of the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Law of Contract. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to the drafting of contracts, requirements of a valid contract, breach of contract, and interpretation of contracts. The module also provides students with knowledge on the impact of the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 on contracts. Students are introduced to the sources of Law of Contract in order to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on the Law of Contract.

LAW OF DELICT

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of the Law of Delict. The module is concerned with the elements of a delict, grounds for justification, liability and the apportionment of damages. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Law of Delict to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

LAW OF PERSONS

In this foundational module, first-time law students are equipped with basic legal skills they will need in their studies and in practice. The module exposes students to study skills needed to complete a qualification in law. The module also covers basic numeracy skills, research skills, reading skills, writing skills, interviewing skills, and advocacy skills. It is aimed at learning and practicing skills required by law students and prospective practitioners.

LAW OF PROPERTY

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Property Law. The module is concerned with the legal principles of ownership, holdership, and possession. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Property Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

LAW OF SUCCESSION

This module equips students with knowledge of the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Law of Succession. The module therefore aims to provide students with knowledge of the law and rules which control the transfer of assets of a deceased person to successors. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to intestate and testate succession, formalities of a will, revocation of a will, contents of a will, capacity to inherit, collation, and the administration of estates. Students are introduced to the sources of the Law of Succession to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on the Law of Succession.

LEGAL SKILLS

In this foundational module first-time law students are equipped with basic legal skills they will need in their studies and in practice. The first part of this module exposes students to study skills needed to complete a qualification in law. The module equips students with basic numeracy skills, research skills, readings skills, writing skills, interviewing skills and advocacy skills. The second part of the module exposes students to computer literacy skills. Information Administration Systems includes an online training component which allows students to practice simulated MS Office tasks at their own pace, supported by integrated feedback which helps them to identify and remedy their mistakes; and an assessment component which will count towards their overall module result. Students will also complete several assignments in which they will be expected to apply the MS Office tools that they have practiced in the online environment. The module is aimed at learning and practicing skills required by law students and prospective practitioners.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

PHILOSOPHY I (INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the field of philosophy by giving them an overview of some of the main fields of study (or 'Big Questions') in philosophy. The module covers philosophical thinking, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, logic and critical thinking, and the question of what it means to be human. A secondary aim of the module is to start students on the path of questioning and critical thinking. The themes handled in the module will lay the foundations for future modules. Students will acquire the necessary knowledge and analytical skills needed to continue their studies in philosophy. These skills in analysis, argumentation, and problem solving can also be implemented in other fields of study. Each theme also includes a practical exercise or thought experiment, which will enable students to apply their knowledge and hone their analytical and critical thinking abilities.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT I (INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the study of politics. It is based on three essential components that are identified as the introductory foundation in understanding politics. This will include defining the nature of the state in politics, the conceptualisation of how power can and should be used, and examining the way power can be utilised to achieve particular ends. Secondly, the module will assess institutions through the manner in which political actions are conducted, such as the separation of powers between the three spheres of government. The primary focus will be on democratic institutions as described within formal constitutional rules, but also in the context of institutions in states where democracy is not formally constituted. Lastly, political processes and the role of political actors will be assessed in gauging the factors that influence state society relations, democratic consolidation, and the dynamics of electoral politics, constitutional values and rules. The African and the South African political landscape will serve as the contextual analytical framework.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIA (COMPARATIVE POLITICS)

In this module, students will be introduced to the sub-field of comparative politics which comprises an application of the comparative methodology in the study of government politics. Students will be presented with insights comparing how societies and politics have addressed challenges in similar and divergent ways, and some of the approaches developed in understanding systems of government. The criteria for selection of cases vary according to the question that is being researched, whether it is political stability, democratic quality, democratic transition and consolidation, or socio-economic development. Africa and South Africa will be examined in this comparative context, extrapolating how African systems of government are informed by pathways to development, models of democratic frameworks, and dynamics of historical and contemporary structural conditions that influence the nature and institutional architecture of the state, society and culture.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIB (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN POLITICS)

The international system constitutes a critical backdrop for the relationship between states and non-states as actors embedded in a wide-set engagement with international organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union (AU), regional economic communities including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), or the European Union (EU). Therefore the aim of this module is to introduce students to what constitutes the politics among nations as well as understanding the core elements that inform how such relations are conceptualised in practice and the theoretical debates such as ideology, diplomacy, international law, political economy, globalisation, and power that are used in the study of International Relations. Africa and South Africa will serve as the framework to gauge the interpretation, position and integration in global affairs.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIIA (POLITICAL ANALYSIS)

The systematic study of politics gains its distinctiveness as a field of study by virtue of its being an academic discipline. The rigour embedded in this disciplinary approach is found in the application of a particular method of research. Each method is in turn based on a particular set of epistemic truth claims, which require one particular methodology over another, and one set of truth claims over others. Contending theoretical paradigms also align themselves with corresponding supportive epistemologies and methodologies. The aim of this module is to present to students the range of methods of political research, each with their respective epistemological truth claims. Students will be required to identify a research topic based on a selection of issues discussed in years 1 and 2. Students will have to consider a topic from the range of modules completed on political behaviour, global political economy, comparative politics, international relations and African politics, introduction to political and South African politics. Students are required to apply the research methodology in developing their research on the topic with a view to developing a research finding and producing a research report.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT III B (POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR)

This subfield entails the study of political values, beliefs, and attitudes that people endorse, and that find coherent expression in democratic political culture. The dynamics of political behaviour concern the way that people transfer dispositions from one generation to the next. If they succeed, the result is continuity in political culture and stable conventional democratic political participation. To the extent that this transfer is incomplete or fails, discontinuity in political culture arises, with resultant protest politics, instability, and even violence. These issues will be tested in the African and South African context based on what issues inform political behaviour, beliefs, change, and the dynamics of contested electoral politics in how democracy is conceptualised and interpreted in practice.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIIC

This module introduces students to the study of global political economy. It explores the dynamics that inform the economic relations of cooperation and conflict between major state and non-state political actors in international economic architecture. Using the 19th and 20th centuries as the backdrop of a global system of interaction, the major subject matter of this subfield that will be assessed will include the spheres of production, trade, finance, and the rules governing the international economic order. Understanding the evolution of this system and its primary characteristics requires a conceptual and theoretical framework of understanding such as mercantilism, market liberalism, economic dependency (core-periphery structuralism), and the evolution of globalisation. Considering some of the major contending theoretical frameworks which inform the practical contours of the global political economy will be significant in interpreting and understanding South Africa and Africa's relationship to the power dynamics that define international political economy and the processes of structural transformation and regional economic integration. It will also assess the rise of actors such as China and India and their corresponding effects on the global economic architecture and the implications this has for Africa and South Africa.

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING CREATIVITY

Creativity is defined as the production of novel, useful and surprising ideas. Creative ideation provides individuals with the capacity to deal with and adapt to opportunities, threats, and changes in everyday life. It is not just a reaction to problems and challenges, but considered a driver of cultural evolution through the development of new ideas and subsequent innovation. Within industry, creativity as a driver of innovation is considered an important economic resource and viewed as an integral factor contributing to the overall success of an organisation. Yet, despite the importance of creativity for driving innovation and evolution within increasingly unstable and turbulent economic and social environments, the understanding and management of creativity remains too often a poorly understood area. This module is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a critical awareness of current theories concerning the role of creativity in the economy and society, as well as approaches to the management of creativity at individual, group, and organisational level.

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STADIO

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27/10/22
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