

SEMINAR

Teaching Law Without Judgments - Some Innovations at Melbourne Law School

Professor Jeremy Gans

Melbourne Law School

Tuesday, 21 January 2014, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Room, 723, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
The University of Hong Kong



Two compulsory subjects in the University of Melbourne's JD degree have teaching and assessment methods that largely eschew the tradition of teaching using appellate judgments. In the Evidence subject, nearly all classes are exclusively concerned with working through a single (and real) murder trial, and students are assessed by requiring them to work through a different (and also real) hundred-page brief of witness statements and other documents. In the Criminal Law subject, the classes examine a hundred or so different statutory offence provisions, and the exam requires students to tackle a further provision they haven't studied. This seminar discusses the reasons for these different approaches to teaching law and their various benefits and downsides.

Jeremy Gans teaches and researches criminal justice at Melbourne Law School, where he has been a member of faculty since 2002 and a professor since 2014. Since 2007, he has also been the human rights adviser to the Victorian Parliament's Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee. He is in Hong Kong on a Universitas 21 teaching fellowship and was awarded a national citation in 2013 for his evidence law curriculum.

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