



## FUTURES LAW FACULTY

### THE DEFINITIVE ONLINE FUTURES LAW COURSE

#### RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

FINAL ASSESSMENT

1. Candidates are required to write a research assignment of 2000 words on any one of the topics listed hereunder or to choose their own research topic subject to the approval of the Futures Law Faculty Research Committee.
2. The research assignment should provide: a cover page, index, APA referencing and a bibliography (which are excluded from the word count).
3. The research assignment should be in the following format:
  - Font – Ariel
  - Font Size – 11
  - Spacing - 1.15
  - Justified
4. Students are to submit a signed Declaration of Authenticity with their research assignment. A research assignment submitted without a signed Declaration of Authenticity will not be graded.



Candidates are advised that the Futures Law Faculty does not tolerate any form of plagiarism. Plagiarised and/or copied answers from prescribed reading, study material or any other consulted source will not be considered and may lead to the candidates suspension while remaining liable for the full course fees.



Assignments are to be submitted per email – [info@futureslawfaculty.co.za](mailto:info@futureslawfaculty.co.za) - prior to the completion of a candidates 6 month course duration. Candidates must ensure they receive an email of acknowledgement of the submission of their research assignment before accepting that the submission of same has been completed. Only upon receipt of an acknowledgement of submission will the research assignment be deemed to have been submitted.



## FUTURES LAW FACULTY

### MARKING CRITERIA

#### ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL FUTURES LAW SHORT COURSE

#### RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Focus will be on candidate's insight and understanding of the Futures of Law, the potential it holds and the shortcomings it may give rise to. Candidates are to be assessed on the basis of their insight and understanding of the Futures Law Course curriculum and prescribed reading.

Assessment of the Research Assignment will consider the following :

- Relevance (is the answer relevant to the question), completeness and correctness of the content of the answers
- The level of knowledge, insight and understanding as it is reflected in the discussions/defence-of-position when answering a question.
- The level of originality/own work in the answers and ability to integrate (make sense of) different aspects of reading material and sources consulted.



Plagiarised and/or copied answers from prescribed reading , study material or any other source consulted will not be considered and may lead to the candidates suspension while remaining liable for the full course fees.

#### THE POINTS FRAMEWORK:

Range	Comment
0 -10%	Not answered the question or extremely poor content
11% - 20%	Extremely poor answer, very poor content
21% - 30%	Poor answer, poor content
31% - 40%	Weak answer, weak content
41% - 50%	Some merit in the in the answer, content incomplete but factual
51% - 60%	Merit in the answer, content reasonably complete and factual
61% - 70%	Good answer, content reasonably complete and factual
71% - 80%	Very good answer, content very good and factual
81% - 90%	Excellent answer, content outstanding and factual
91% - 100%	Nothing can or should be added to this outstanding answer but congratulations!



## FUTURES LAW FACULTY

### RESEARCH TOPICS

1. Module 1 - Introduction to Futures Thinking - Futures Thinking is often misunderstood as being a way to predict the future, with many putting it down as another means of crystal ball gazing. Some deem it to be one of the greatest strategy tools available while others, particularly in the legal industry, put it down to nothing other than a waste of time with now productive value or use. Write an essay in which you explain what futures thinking is, how it is used and what potential benefits or shortcomings it may have. It is important to provide your own opinion on the usefulness and benefits or shortcomings of Futures Thinking as a business tool in our ever changing legal landscape, emphasising how legal professionals may benefit or be disadvantaged by applying futures thinking methodology to legal practice.
2. Module 2 - Big Data - Data is regarded as the new gold in the Fourth Industrial revolution given the many uses and insights data can provide. However, despite the increased collection, storage, use and processing of individual data, it remains primarily unregulated with many individuals and businesses being blissfully unaware of the potential of big data, what disadvantages it may hold and to what extent it is regulated. Provide a comparative analysis between South Africa and a foreign jurisdiction considering the use of data and how same is regulated to provide access to information while ensuring the protection of individual rights. Your answer should indicate how the South African regulatory industry may benefit from following a foreign approach or emphasise why the South African regulation of big data should serve as an example to foreign jurisdictions.
3. Module 3 - Trial Technology and E-Discovery - South Africa's judicial system is known for involving significant costs, not only in monetary terms but also in regard to time and failure to provide justice. Having read and considered the benefits and disadvantages of trial technology and E-Discovery, provide an opinion on whether South Africa's judicial system could benefit from the use of available trial technology and E-Discovery processes. Provide a comparative analysis between South Africa and a foreign judicial system using trial technology and E-discovery, highlighting the suitability of the South African legal industry to the use and implementation of trial technology and E-discovery, emphasising potential benefits and/or shortcomings in the use of E-Discovery and other related trial technology in South Africa, with focus on whether trial technology and E-Discovery could enhance the South African justice system or result in additional costs and exclusions, failing to provide access to justice and enforcement of individual rights.



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4. Module 4 - The New Business Paradigms of Law - While the legal landscape is known for its continuous evolution and growth, it is also characterised by archaic thinking and tradition. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is calling on a new way of thinking and practicing law, utilising technology and alternative business strategies to ensure access to justice and enforcement of individual rights. Considering the Fourth Industrial Revolution and predictions of legal professionals being ousted by artificial intelligence, write an opinion in which you provide insight on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and whether it indeed will have an impact on the legal industry, indicating the potential impact or lack of impact the fourth industrial revolution may have on the practice of law, with considerations on how legal professionals should adapt their application, interpretation and practice of law (if any) to ensure their continued legal relevance. Your opinion must be backed by relevant evidence and information .
5. Module 5 - Exponential Technologies – Considering the exponential technologies that are currently available in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the predictions of Moore’s Law, provide an opinion on some of the potential grey areas created by new technologies and potential gaps in our legal system, proposing how same may be dealt with and what should be done to ensure legislature is ahead of the curve of technology and the implications it may hold for the practice of law and individual rights by referencing foreign jurisdictions or backing your opinion with relevant evidence and information.
6. Module 6 - Cybersecurity - In considering recent data leaks and related cyberhacks in South Africa, provide an opinion on how South Africa compares to other foreign jurisdictions in regulating cybercrime, emphasising the short comings or advantages of the South African legislation in combatting and prosecuting cybercrime, what can be learnt from foreign jurisdictions or what foreign jurisdictions can learn from South Africa.
7. Candidate Research Question Option

Having read and considered the reading materials, Candidates are permitted to write an essay on their own relevant legal question that they may have found intriguing while completing the Futures Law Short Course. Candidates are required to submit their proposed research question to the Futures Law Faculty indicating its relevance and applicability to the legal industry and content covered during the Futures Law Short Course. Its should be noted that all candidates research question will be subject to the discretion of the Futures Law Faculty’s research committee and is subject to their approval.



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Candidates are to submit their proposed research questions to the Futures Law Faculty per email – [info@futureslawfaculty.co.za](mailto:info@futureslawfaculty.co.za) at any time prior to the last two weeks of the course's 6 month duration. Proposed research questions received in the last two weeks of any candidate's 6 month course duration will not be considered and the candidate will have no option other than completing any of the research questions listed here above.

### SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENT

Assignments are to be submitted per email – [info@futureslawfaculty.co.za](mailto:info@futureslawfaculty.co.za) - prior to the completion of a candidate's 6 month course duration.

Candidates must ensure they receive an email of acknowledgement of the submission of their Research Assignment before accepting that the submission of same has been completed.

Only upon receipt of an acknowledgement of submission will the Research Assignment be deemed to have been submitted.

Should no acknowledgement of submission be received, the Research Assignment will be deemed not to have been received by the Futures Law Faculty and will consequently be deemed not to have been submitted.



## FUTURES LAW FACULTY

### DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I \_\_\_\_\_ (*full name*), ID number \_\_\_\_\_ herewith declare:

- i. That I understand that plagiarism amounts to copying work or using the work of another and presenting it as my own.
- ii. That I acknowledge and accept the Futures Law Faculty's approach to plagiarism and that any plagiarism and/or copied answers from prescribed reading , study material or any other source will not be considered and may lead to relevant disciplinary action against myself, which may include suspension while remaining liable for the full course fees.
- iii. That all information presented in this research assignment is my own work, with each significant contribution and quotation from the works of others having been appropriately attributed, cited and referenced as per the required referencing style.
- iv. That I have not and will not allow anyone to copy this research assignment with the intention of passing it off as his or her own work.

SIGNED AT \_\_\_\_\_ (PLACE) ON THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF  
\_\_\_\_\_ (MONTH) 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date