



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3541 Pacific Islands Laws (USP) - 2024

Published on the 17 Dec 2023

General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3541

Year : 2024

Term : Summer

Teaching Period : U1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Global and Public Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : See School

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

An introduction to the merging legal systems of the Pacific Islands states, including issues of constitutional development, the recognition and application of customary law, modern and traditional legal institutions, land tenure regimes, personal law, and the legal recognition of

economic activity, such as international trade, foreign investments and national resources projects. In addition to surveying the position of particular states, such as Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu, there will also be consideration of the nature and role of regional organisations, such as the South Pacific Forum and the Forum Fishing Agency. The course will be taught in conjunction with the Law Faculty of the University of the South Pacific at the Emalus Campus in Port Vila, Vanuatu so as to further expose students to a Pacific Islands legal system and its key features as well as deepening links between the UNSW Law Faculty and legal academics in the region. It will be taught in intensive mode over two weeks, and will include trips to local courts and law firms, as well as to contexts where customary law is observed. Students will have the option of staying on campus in student residences, or finding their own accommodation.

Course Aims

Academic proposer to complete

- To provide students with the general knowledge of the legal systems of the Pacific Islands
- To introduce students to a basic working knowledge of some of the legal institutions and the legal culture of the Pacific Islands
- To expose students to some current legal and policy questions surrounding Pacific Islands-Australia relations such as asylum seekers, climate change, natural resources regulation

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Understand key features of the Pacific Islands legal systems Knowledge of the detailed structure of at least 3 Pacific Islands systems of government A preliminary grasp of frameworks of private and commercial law in the region An appreciation of topical arguments in favour of and against various proposals for law reform in the region An ability to cogently discuss these concepts in a scholarly and persuasive manner An understanding of contemporary problems facing the more important legal systems of the region

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Understand key features of the Pacific Islands legal systems Knowledge of the detailed structure of at least 3 Pacific Islands systems of government A preliminary grasp of frameworks of private and commercial law in the region An appreciation of topical arguments in favour of and against various proposals for law reform in the region An ability to cogently discuss these concepts in a scholarly and persuasive manner An understanding of contemporary problems facing the more important legal systems of the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Participation• Research paper or equivalent options• Class presentation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Research paper or equivalent options	60%	
Class presentation	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

Assessment Details

Class Participation

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand key features of the Pacific Islands legal systems Knowledge of the detailed structure of at least 3 Pacific Islands systems of government A preliminary grasp of frameworks of private and commercial law in the region An appreciation of topical arguments in favour of and against various proposals for law reform in the region An ability to cogently discuss these concepts in a scholarly and persuasive manner An understanding of contemporary problems facing the more important legal systems of the region

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will be assessed on their contribution to the classes. Further information on the assessment criteria will be provided through Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Research paper or equivalent options

Assessment Overview

Research essay (40% max 2500 words / 60% max 4000 words)

and / or

Reflective journal (20%), Media activity (20%), Quiz (20%).

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand key features of the Pacific Islands legal systems Knowledge of the detailed structure of at least 3 Pacific Islands systems of government A preliminary grasp of frameworks of private and commercial law in the region An appreciation of topical arguments in favour of and against various proposals for law reform in the region An ability to cogently discuss these concepts in a scholarly and persuasive manner An understanding of contemporary problems facing the more important legal systems of the region

Class presentation

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand key features of the Pacific Islands legal systems Knowledge of the detailed structure of at least 3 Pacific Islands systems of government A preliminary grasp of frameworks of private and commercial law in the region An appreciation of topical arguments in favour of and against various proposals for law reform in the region An ability to cogently

discuss these concepts in a scholarly and persuasive manner An understanding of contemporary problems facing the more important legal systems of the region

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will give a presentation on a select topic during class. Further information on the assessment criteria will be provided through Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure** and **Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

General Schedule Information

The course commences on Sunday 7 January 2024 and concludes on Saturday 20 January 2024. A class schedule is provided on Moodle.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The prescribed text is Jennifer Corrin and Vergil Narokobi, 'Introduction to South Pacific Law' (5th ed, 2022, Intersentia). Further readings are provided through Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources are provided through Moodle.

Additional Costs

An additional fee of \$1 100 applies to this elective

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Leon Terrill					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up,

then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.