



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3276 Sir Anthony Mason Research Project in Constitutional Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3276

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Global and Public Law

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The Sir Anthony Mason Research Project in Constitutional Law provides a unique opportunity to

develop specialist knowledge and skills in constitutional law by supporting a student while completing a research project in this field. The student will be supervised by a staff member of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law and the project will be assessed by the Director and one other academic member of the Centre (who is not the supervisor).

The student is free to propose their planned project when applying for the internship and this work may involve, for example, research and analysis regarding:

- The work and role of the Australian judiciary, especially the High Court as a decision-making institution and third arm of the national government;
- Referenda, such as the recognition of local government and of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Constitution;
- Constitutional issues related to [refugees and migration](#);
- Constitutional or parliamentary protection of human rights; or
- Contemporary Australian federalism.

The student will be selected on the basis of:

- Academic merit assessed over no less than two terms;
- A Curriculum Vitae; and
- A written outline (maximum 500 words) of a research project that is (a) topical in light of current developments in the public law field; and (b) displays a solid connection to at least one of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre's main research areas as defined on its website, www.gtcentre.unsw.edu.au.

The selection will be made by the Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre, in consultation with relevant academic staff members about their capacity to supervise particular projects. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a sustained and substantial interest in constitutional law.

Course Aims

The aims and expected learning outcomes of this course are formulated with the UNSW Law School Graduate Attributes (GAs) in mind.

The principal goal of the course is to provide a student with the opportunity to complete a major piece of research in the field of public law, hopefully to publication standard. The course aims to familiarise the student with and to develop skills in formulating research topics, conducting

independent research, using individual supervision, and writing coherent, informative, and persuasive papers.

Relationship to Other Courses

Builds on principles learned in public law and Federal Constitutional Law, by encouraging the application of these principles to inform an advanced undergraduate research project developed in dialogue with Faculty public law teachers and experts.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : compose and develop research questions in the public law field (PLO 12)
CLO2 : demonstrate knowledge on the topic finalised as the basis for the research project (PLOs 1 & 12)
CLO3 : engage analytically with the scholarship of others in respect of that topic (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)
CLO4 : construct a clear argument that contributes to existing literature in the field (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)
CLO5 : communicate a sustained written argument effectively supported by thorough research and citation of relevant sources (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : compose and develop research questions in the public law field (PLO 12)	• Research Project
CLO2 : demonstrate knowledge on the topic finalised as the basis for the research project (PLOs 1 & 12)	• Research Project
CLO3 : engage analytically with the scholarship of others in respect of that topic (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)	• Research Project
CLO4 : construct a clear argument that contributes to existing literature in the field (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)	• Research Project
CLO5 : communicate a sustained written argument effectively supported by thorough research and citation of relevant sources (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)	• Research Project

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research Project Assessment Format: Individual	100%	

Assessment Details

Research Project

Assessment Overview

Assessment: A 7,500 to 9,000 word research paper is due on the last day of classes in each term.

Researching and writing a research thesis is intended to give you the opportunity to focus in depth on an area of particular interest to you, to learn more about that area, to view it in context, to offer commentary on the area, and to demonstrate your ability to communicate that material in written form. Writing a research thesis should give you the opportunity to present a more sustained and developed argument than would shorter or alternative assessment forms

In assessing your research thesis the examiners will be looking for:

- Evidence of initiative in researching;
- Well structured and fluent writing style (with sufficient attention to detail);
- Persuasive and well thought-out argument/s;
- Evidence of critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter;
- Appropriate use of resources;
- Appropriate use evidence or examples to support your argument
- Appropriate references and referencing system.

The student will be provided with written feedback on their essay, using the relevant Faculty of Law and Justice rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : compose and develop research questions in the public law field (PLO 12)
- CL02 : demonstrate knowledge on the topic finalised as the basis for the research project (PLOs 1 & 12)
- CL03 : engage analytically with the scholarship of others in respect of that topic (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)

- CLO4 : construct a clear argument that contributes to existing literature in the field (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)
- CLO5 : communicate a sustained written argument effectively supported by thorough research and citation of relevant sources (PLOs 5, 6 & 12)

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

For further information on generative AI use in the Faculty of Law & Justice, please review the section titled 'Academic Honesty and Plagiarism' under the 'Other Useful Information' tab.

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.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Rosalind Dixon					Yes	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.

Generative AI

Using generative AI to conduct research or to organise your argument is not prohibited but is not encouraged. We note that the output from generative AI tools is often incorrect and almost always more superficial than is required to achieve a passing grade. Moreover, any substantive errors in the assessment, such as inappropriate references or incorrect statements, will be regarded negatively by the marker, just as they would if not generated by AI. You should limit your use of AI to simple editorial assistance, such as standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not. If your marker or Turnitin identify the wrongful use of generative AI in the text of your assessment submission, including the use of paraphrasing software, your assessment may be referred to the Student Integrity team for investigation. Please go to the link for further information about [referencing and acknowledging the use of artificial intelligence tools](#).

Prohibition on use of translation apps

With limited exceptions for language study, the course of study and assessment in Australian universities must be in English (Higher Education Standard Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 1.5 6(c)).

In Law & Justice many classes have assessable class participation. This must be in English. **Use of a translation device to assist with contributions to class discussion is not allowed.** Marks for class participation may be reduced where use of translation devices is detected. Similar

prohibitions apply to use of any other generative text app that is not specifically permitted by the class teacher. However, use of translation software to assist a student to understand material outside of class, or to assist with preparation for assessment is generally permitted.

Further considerations apply to LLB and JD students. International lawyers who seek to be admitted in NSW must satisfy an English proficiency test. That test is expressed as equivalent to IELTS scores of 7.0 -8.0 across the tests. It is assumed that UNSW graduates are at or above those levels of English proficiency. Use of translation apps can impede the attainment of that level of proficiency. Students should avoid behaviours that put them at risk of breach of legal requirements which can have significant consequences, including potential consequences for your admission as a lawyer.

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.