



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3144 Animal Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3144

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Private and Commercial Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

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

Law plays a substantial role in the ways in which our society relates to animals. As our society increasingly accepts that the protection of animals from cruelty and other forms of mistreatment is important, the study of legal matters relating to animals, ie animal law, is important.

This course looks at the ethics and jurisprudence on the way humans think of and treat other animals, the historical and present legal status of animals, the law and science underpinning our approach to animal welfare and animal sentience, standing to represent the interest of animals, and the laws and codes of practice relating to the use of animals for food, research, and entertainment.

Main Topics

- Introduction to animal law.
- People and animals: ethics, history, law, and society.
- The status of other animals in our human legal system.
- Anti-cruelty law.
- The regulation of the use of animals for food, entertainment, and research.
- Live export. Animals in the wild.
- Companion animal laws.
- Laws relating to fishes – are there any?
- Consumer law and animal welfare.
- Plant-based diets and the law – emerging conflicts.
- Free trade constraints on animal welfare standards.
- Animal law, an international perspective.

Course Aims

A candidate who has successfully completed this course should be able to:

- analyse the major theoretical approaches to the protection of non-human animals;
- identify the theoretical assumptions underpinning animal welfare legislation in NSW;
- explain the differential operation of the law with respect to different kinds of animals; and
- evaluate the role of law in protecting the interests of animals.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in Animal Law within Australia and internationally (PLOs 2, 3, 8)
CLO2 : Use advanced problem solving skills to resolve complex animal law issues (PLOs 9, 10, 11, 12)
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research and written communication skills by articulating legal and practice concepts in relation to animal protection effectively, clearly and appropriately (PLOs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)
CLO4 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration by debating theoretical and practical issues around animal law in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1, 6 & 9)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in Animal Law within Australia and internationally (PLOs 2, 3, 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term assessment • Course Participation
CLO2 : Use advanced problem solving skills to resolve complex animal law issues (PLOs 9, 10, 11, 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final written assessment • Mid-term assessment
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research and written communication skills by articulating legal and practice concepts in relation to animal protection effectively, clearly and appropriately (PLOs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final written assessment • Mid-term assessment
CLO4 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration by debating theoretical and practical issues around animal law in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1, 6 & 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Participation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Mid-term assessment Assessment Format: Individual	20%	
Final written assessment Assessment Format: Individual	60%	
Course Participation Assessment Format: Individual	20%	

Assessment Details

Mid-term assessment

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in Animal Law within Australia and internationally (PLOs 2, 3, 8)
- CLO2 : Use advanced problem solving skills to resolve complex animal law issues (PLOs 9, 10, 11, 12)

- CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research and written communication skills by articulating legal and practice concepts in relation to animal protection effectively, clearly and appropriately (PLOs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)

Detailed Assessment Description

This is usually a short written assignment requiring students to engage with a current government public consultation process or parliamentary inquiry into an animal law topic. Details to be discussed in class.

Final written assessment

Assessment Overview

Research Paper (2000-3000 words)

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Use advanced problem solving skills to resolve complex animal law issues (PLOs 9, 10, 11, 12)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research and written communication skills by articulating legal and practice concepts in relation to animal protection effectively, clearly and appropriately (PLOs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will be required to write an essay on topics given in class, or on a topic agreed between the student and the course lecturers.

Course Participation

Assessment Overview

Preparation for and active participation in class discussion and group exercises; analysis of readings; other short assessment options.

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate an understanding of current issues in Animal Law within Australia and internationally (PLOs 2, 3, 8)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration by debating theoretical and practical issues around animal law in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1, 6 & 9)

Detailed Assessment Description

• Course Participation (CP) is based on the quality and consistency of engagement with topics and participation in discussions in class.

- Alternatives to CP such as analysis of readings may be offered during the course.
- Attendance is required to pass the course but does not translate to CP marks.
- Absence (without a valid reason) may result in deduction from CP marks.
- Questions about assessments are not counted towards CP marks.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

As this is an intensive course, full attendance is required. If students cannot attend a class they will need to advise the lecturers beforehand where possible, and provide summaries of readings for the classes missed.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Reading	
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Intensive	Day 1: Introduction to Animal Law (Saturday 16 September) The status of animals in our legal system. People relating to (other) animals: ethics, history, law, and society. People speaking out for animals: ag-gag laws and silencing dissent.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Intensive	Day 2: Foundations of animal welfare laws (Saturday 23 September) Animal welfare laws: overview. Animal welfare laws: evaluation - do they protect animals? Animal welfare laws: enforcement.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Intensive	Day 3: Animals as companions and entertainment (Saturday 30 September) Pets: disposable objects or members of the family. Protecting the performers: animals used for entertainment. Consumer law: can it protect animals?
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Intensive	Day 4: Animals in intensive industries (Saturday 7 October) Factory farmed animals and the law. Fish sentience and the case for protection. Fishes and the law: the forgotten animals.
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Intensive	Day 5: Animals: an International Perspective (Saturday 14 October) Legal Personhood for animals. Animals and international law. Animal law in Australia and the US - a comparative law approach. Live export of animals.
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexibility Week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Intensive	Day 6: Animals in the lab, the wild, and politics (Saturday 28 October) Regulating the invisible: animals in scientific research. Wild animals: beyond the law? Animal issues in Parliament. Plant-based diets and the law: emerging conflicts. Conclusion—animal protection and the law: an evaluation.

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.

As this is an intensive course, full attendance is required. If students cannot attend a class they will need to advise the lecturers beforehand where possible, and provide summaries of readings for classes missed.

General Schedule Information

The course will run: Tue, Fri 11am-1pm Tue (Wk 1-5, 7-10); Fri (Wk 1-5, 7-10)

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Elizabeth Ellis, *Australian Animal Law Context and Critique* (Sydney Uni Press, 2022); <https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781743328514&16062242>

Recommended Resources

- Deborah Cao, *Animal Law in Australia*, (2nd edition, Thomson Reuters, 2015); <https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9780455235769>
- Voiceless, *The Animal Law Toolkit* (2nd edition, 2015); available at: <https://www.voiceless.org.au/voiceless-animal-law-toolkit-second-edition>.
- Peter Sankoff, Steven White and Celeste Black (eds), *Animal Law in Australasia*, (2nd edition, The Federation Press, 2013).
- Graeme McEwen, *Animal Law: Principles and Frontiers*, e-book published on the Barristers Animal Welfare Panel (Australia) website, 2011: <http://bawp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/eBook-FINAL.pdf>.
- Randall S. Abate, *What Can Animal Law Learn From Environmental Law?*, Environmental Law Institute, September 2015.
- David Brooks, *Turin. Approaching Animals* (Brandl & Schlesinger, NSW, 2021).
- Danny Crossman, *The Animal Code. Giving Animals Respect and Rights*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2011.
- Mike Radford, *Animal welfare Law in Britain - Regulation and Responsibility*, Oxford University Press, Oxford UK, 2001.
- *Australian Animal Protection Law Journal*, NSW Australia.
- Australian Law Reform Commission, 'Animals', *Reform*, Issue 91, Summer 2007-08; available at: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Reform-91.pdf>.
- Cass Sunstein and Martha Nussbaum (eds), *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2004.
- Gary Francione, *Introduction to Animal Rights: Your Child or the Dog?* Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 2000.

- Gary Francione, *Animals, property and the law*, Temple University Press, USA, 1995.
- Susan Armstrong and Richard Botzler (eds), *The Animal Ethics Reader*, Routledge, London UK, 2008 (2nd ed).
- Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation*, 2nd ed, Pimlico, London UK ,1995.
- Tom Regan and Peter Singer (eds), *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, USA, 1989.
- Peter Singer (ed), *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave*, Blackwell Publishing, UK, 2006.
- Peter Singer and Jim Mason, *The Ethics of What We Eat*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2006.
- Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 1993 (2nd ed) or 2011 (3rd ed).
- Tom Regan, *The Case For Animal Rights*, University of California Press, Berkeley USA, 2004.
- Richard Ryder, *Animal Revolution: Changing Attitudes Towards Speciesism*, Berg UK, 2000.

Course Evaluation and Development

We welcome feedback on the course during the course itself or after it is completed. We endeavour to incorporate feedback into the course wherever possible. For example, we received feedback last year that some students struggled with the course participation requirement of participating in class discussions. We are therefore considering alternatives such as summarising class readings or other written tasks.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Tara Ward		Off campus	0428 416 857	As required	Yes	Yes
Lecturer	Sarah Margo		Off campus			No	No
Convenor	William (Joseph) Nicholls		Room 246, Level 2, Law & Justice Building, UNSW SYDNEY 2052			No	No

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.