



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8066 Climate Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8066

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course examines the origins, evolution and practice of international climate change law, tracing it through to domains normally associated with private law and markets. It begins with an overview of the scientific, economic and normative debates about climate change and then examines the Australian and international legal regimes related to climate change. This includes

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and more recent negotiations. It will consider the relationship between climate change and other areas of international law and policy, including forest protection and carbon trading.

The course examines ongoing debates about national emissions regulations, as well as more localised attempts to build a low emissions economy. The course will provide international comparisons to better situate Australia's legal regime.

Main topics

- The science and economics of climate change
- History of the International climate regime
- Structure and framework of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol
- Climate finance and international development (REDD)
- Climate law and policy in Australia
- 'Baseline and credit' and other carbon pricing laws
- Carbon sequestration
- Case studies with cross-cutting issues with private law (such as property access for resource companies)
- Climate change litigation

The course will be useful for students intending to work in a wide range of practice areas, from commercial and energy law to planning, policy and international development. It will be valuable for students interested in the relationships between law, science, technology, ethics and government for a world where the boundaries between nature and culture are increasingly blurred by the shifting climate.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Engage in complex critical discussions of the development of climate law and policy in Australia (PLOs 1a, 2a, 3a, 3b)
CLO2 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication and collaboration through class discussion of the climate change related issues that arise in legal practice (PLOs 3a, 3b)
CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems related to climate change at the local, state, national and international levels (PLOs 2a, 3a, 3b)
CLO4 : Examine and engage in advanced critical analysis of the efficacy of Australian climate law in the context of international challenges through an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 4)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Engage in complex critical discussions of the development of climate law and policy in Australia (PLOs 1a, 2a, 3a, 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Class Presentation or Group Exercise • Research Essay
CLO2 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication and collaboration through class discussion of the climate change related issues that arise in legal practice (PLOs 3a, 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Research Essay
CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems related to climate change at the local, state, national and international levels (PLOs 2a, 3a, 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Presentation or Group Exercise • Class Participation • Research Essay
CLO4 : Examine and engage in advanced critical analysis of the efficacy of Australian climate law in the context of international challenges through an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	15%	
Class Presentation or Group Exercise Assessment Format: Group	25%	
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual	60%	

Assessment Details

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

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

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Engage in complex critical discussions of the development of climate law and policy in Australia (PLOs 1a, 2a, 3a, 3b)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication and collaboration through class discussion of the climate change related issues that arise in legal practice (PLOs 3a, 3b)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems related to climate change at the local, state, national and international levels (PLOs 2a, 3a, 3b)

Class Presentation or Group Exercise

Assessment Overview

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

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Engage in complex critical discussions of the development of climate law and policy in Australia (PLOs 1a, 2a, 3a, 3b)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems related to climate change at the local, state, national and international levels (PLOs 2a, 3a, 3b)

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

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

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Engage in complex critical discussions of the development of climate law and policy in Australia (PLOs 1a, 2a, 3a, 3b)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate effective oral and written communication and collaboration through class discussion of the climate change related issues that arise in legal practice (PLOs 3a, 3b)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced oral communication skills by discussing and debating theoretical propositions, methodologies and legal problems related to climate change at the local, state, national and international levels (PLOs 2a, 3a, 3b)
- CLO4 : Examine and engage in advanced critical analysis of the efficacy of Australian climate law in the context of international challenges through an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 4)

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.

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	Amelia Thorpe					No	Yes
Lecturer	Sharona Coutts					Yes	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.