



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS3216 Food Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS3216

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1B

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 : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

After two centuries of increasingly intensive urbanisation, people are more disconnected from food production than they have ever been before. A minority of the world's population grow food, and in highly urbanised countries that minority is vanishingly small. Less than 0.01% of Australians are employed in agriculture of any kind. Modern agriculture is industrialised and food

production corporatized. However, across the globe, there is a growing movement to reconnect with food production and to critically examine how food reaches our tables. Researchers and food activists are highlighting the social, cultural, ethical and environmental costs of modern food production, and exploring alternatives to industrial food systems.

This course will introduce students to a broad range of legal and policy issues, at both domestic and international level, that relate to food. Drawing on the expertise of multiple teachers, topics may include:

- Regulatory models that affect food production and distribution, including international covenants on food security and food aid, environmental laws, patents, trademarks, cultural heritage laws, biotechnology and health standards, animal rights, consumer laws and local government/planning law;
- Biotechnology and food production, including the demise of historical prohibitions on agricultural patents and public interest litigation around patenting life forms; the distinction between discovery and invention and its consequence; the distinction between open-pollinated seeds, hybrids and GMOs; contemporary developments in agribusiness and biotech patenting; plant variety rights; seed saving and farmers' rights;
- The environment and food, including the environmental impact of nutrient and pesticide pollution, biodiversity loss and deforestation, water overuse, carbon emissions and waste; legal and regulatory regimes designed to respond to these challenges, illustrated through case studies such as the pollution of the Great Barrier Reef by agriculture run-off; the regulation of water use in agriculture (70% of the world's water) and in the food chain (two thirds of our total water footprint), including legal rights to surface and groundwater, water planning, allocations, efficiency approaches, markets, pricing and enforcement;
- Aboriginal science and rights to food, including an Indigenous knowledges perspective on science, agriculture and property rights to water, land, plants and animals, and data sovereignty; the regulation and use of this knowledge, including global initiatives around biopiracy; access and benefit sharing agreements; creative commons licensing; traditional knowledge databases; regional WIPO initiatives;
- Diverse legal models of enterprise in the food sector, particularly those that link production and distribution in innovative ways; the intersection between the sharing economy and the food system; the potential for innovative domestic models to help realise food-related international Sustainable Development goals;
- Urban agriculture, including the challenges of reconnecting overwhelmingly urban populations with food growing and production; legal rights to access land through public and private law; grassroots activism, community groups, allotments and guerrilla gardening, in Australia and overseas.

Interactive classes on a range of issues will give students a broad understanding of laws and

policies that relate to food. Classes may vary from term to term, depending on staff availability. A research essay on a self-selected topic will allow students to develop food research skills, as well as an in-depth understanding of a single area.

Course Aims

This course will introduce students to a broad range of legal and policy issues connected to food. Drawing on the expertise of multiple teachers, classes will cover food-related aspects of domestic and international law, including environmental and water law, planning law, property law, cultural heritage law, intellectual property and patents, regulatory regimes and the sharing economy.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Examine and engage in complex critical analysis of the legal regulation of food production and distribution in Australia and internationally (CLOs 1, 5, 8, 9)
CLO2 : Demonstrate high level skills of oral communication by debating and discussing course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (CLOs 5, 9)
CLO3 : Investigate and adopt appropriate research methodologies and produce a research essay plan that identifies and synthesises relevant technological, social, political and economic issues in conjunction with a consideration of a food-related area of law and regulation such as environmental and water law, planning law, property law, cultural heritage law, intellectual property and patents, regulatory regimes and the sharing economy (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12)
CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems affecting food production and distribution, through completion of an extended research essay (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12).
CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to incorporate a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources in written communication with appropriate referencing(CLOs 5, 6, 8).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Examine and engage in complex critical analysis of the legal regulation of food production and distribution in Australia and internationally (CLOs 1, 5, 8, 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Essay • Class Participation • Research Synopsis or presentation
CLO2 : Demonstrate high level skills of oral communication by debating and discussing course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (CLOs 5, 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation
CLO3 : Investigate and adopt appropriate research methodologies and produce a research essay plan that identifies and synthesises relevant technological, social, political and economic issues in conjunction with a consideration of a food-related area of law and regulation such as environmental and water law, planning law, property law, cultural heritage law, intellectual property and patents, regulatory regimes and the sharing economy (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Essay • Research Synopsis or presentation
CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems affecting food production and distribution, through completion of an extended research essay (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Essay
CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to incorporate a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources in written communication with appropriate referencing(CLOs 5, 6, 8).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Synopsis or presentation • Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research Essay	60%	
Class Participation	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Research Synopsis or presentation	20%	

Assessment Details

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

a rubric will be used to provide students with guidance on the marking of the essay

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Examine and engage in complex critical analysis of the legal regulation of food production and distribution in Australia and internationally (CLOs 1, 5, 8, 9)
- CLO3 : Investigate and adopt appropriate research methodologies and produce a research essay plan that identifies and synthesises relevant technological, social, political and economic issues in conjunction with a consideration of a food-related area of law and regulation such as environmental and water law, planning law, property law, cultural heritage law, intellectual property and patents, regulatory regimes and the sharing economy (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12)
- CLO4 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of key themes, emerging trends and practical problems affecting food production and distribution, through completion of an extended research essay (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12).
- CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to incorporate a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources in written communication with appropriate referencing(CLOs 5, 6, 8).

Detailed Assessment Description

The research essay will be 4000-5000 words excluding footnotes, usually due on the first day of the exam period. Further detail will be provided in Moodle.

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

Class participation will be assessed based on the students engagement in class discussion

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Examine and engage in complex critical analysis of the legal regulation of food production and distribution in Australia and internationally (CLOs 1, 5, 8, 9)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate high level skills of oral communication by debating and discussing course concepts in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner (CLOs 5, 9)

Research Synopsis or presentation

Assessment Overview

The aim of this piece of assessment is to provide maximum feedback to students.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Examine and engage in complex critical analysis of the legal regulation of food production and distribution in Australia and internationally (CLOs 1, 5, 8, 9)
- CLO3 : Investigate and adopt appropriate research methodologies and produce a research essay plan that identifies and synthesises relevant technological, social, political and economic issues in conjunction with a consideration of a food-related area of law and regulation such as environmental and water law, planning law, property law, cultural heritage law, intellectual property and patents, regulatory regimes and the sharing economy (CLOs 5, 6, 8, 12)
- CLO5 : Demonstrate an ability to incorporate a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources in written communication with appropriate referencing(CLOs 5, 6, 8).

Detailed Assessment Description

A two-page synopsis of your proposed research will be due usually about two weeks before the final essay is due. More detail will be available on Moodle.

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.

General Schedule Information

The course will be taught in semi-intensive mode across three weekends. In 2024, these will be the weekends at the end of Week 6, 8 and 9.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There is no textbook although individual lecturers may recommend materials from specific

books. Most materials are provided through Moodle.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Bronwen Morgan		Law Building 314	02 9385 7727	By appointment (please email ahead)	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.

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.