This 6 UOC course (LAWS3541/JURD7841) will be taught in conjunction with the School of Law of the University of the South Pacific (USP) at the Emalus Campus in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The course will run from the evening of Sunday 15th January 2023 to Thursday 26th January 2023 (inclusive).

Limited places (30 in total) in Pacific Islands Laws will be offered to all eligible Undergraduate Law students, and Juris Doctor students. This course will be taught in English by one teacher from UNSW, Professor Brendan Edgeworth, along with lecturers from the University of the South Pacific (USP), and local/regional organisations. This program is scheduled as a UNSW Summer Term 2022 course.

USP is a key contributor to the development of South Pacific nations and a primary source of higher education graduates in the region. Founded in 1968, USP serves 12 member Countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) with campuses across the Pacific. USP’s Law School is located in Vanuatu.

This course will include field trips to local courts, the Vanuatu Parliament, and other institutions which will help students to understand the environment within which local legal systems operate.

**Course description**

This course will provide an introduction to legal systems of the Pacific region, and to some specific areas of Pacific law. Most Pacific Island states have gained independence only in recent years, and thus their laws and legal systems are still works in progress.

This course will introduce many of the issues arising in developing legal systems, including issues such as history and politics, constitutional development, recognition and application of customary law, land tenure regimes, the extent of adoption of common law principles of private law, and
regional engagement between states and with outside bodies. The topics covered will depend to some extent on the availability of teaching expertise at the time the course is held.

As the course will be taught on location in Vanuatu, students will gain direct exposure to the key features of a Pacific Island legal system in its own environment. In addition, the location will allow field trips to important legal institutions, such as courts, parliament, government departments, and NGOs. This will help students to appreciate some of the difficulties faced by developing legal systems in the region and to appreciate how and why local laws and legal systems are developing in the way they are. Students will also be exposed to the culture and way of life of the South Pacific, and will have an opportunity to meet and mix with USP students and staff.

The course will commence with a welcome get-together and introduction to the program on Sunday 15th January, followed by 13 days of classes, field trips and activities. Classes will generally be held in the Law School located at the Emalus Campus of the University of the South Pacific from 9.00 am–12.30pm. The campus is a 10 - 15 minute bus ride from the CBD. The final schedule of classes, field trips, and social functions will be available at the commencement of the course.

Text and course materials
There is a required text for the course: Jennifer Corrin and Don Paterson, *Introduction to South Pacific Law, 5th ed*, Intersentia, Cambridge, 2022. It will be available from the UNSW bookshop soon. Specific additional required class materials and readings will be available prior to the commencement of the course.

Support for students in Port Vila
Students should remember that Vanuatu is a developing country and travel here requires a flexible attitude. The course convenor, Professor Brendan Edgeworth, will accompany students in Vanuatu. While students will be expected to be independent during their stay in Port Vila, Brendan will be available to support students where needed.

Climate and clothing
January/February is summer, and cyclone season. Summer is humid, with maximum temperatures around 32 degrees celsius, and minimums around 23 degrees. You will need summer clothing and perhaps one light jacket. You are likely also to need a rain coat or umbrella. Please remember that the Pacific Islands are generally conservative so beachwear and skimpy clothing should be reserved for beaches and resorts.

Attendance Requirements
100% attendance at courses and field trips is compulsory. Students will not be permitted to submit assessment for the program unless attendance has been satisfactory.

Assessment
Essay questions will be distributed on commencement of the course. The course will be assessed on a graded basis by class participation/presentation (20%), an online test (20%), and a research paper (60%) of the following lengths:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled course code</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAWS3541/JURD7841</td>
<td><em>Pacific Islands Laws</em></td>
<td>4,000 word essay</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Juris Doctor (JD)</td>
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</tbody>
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Alternative assessment will be available to students wishing to complete their assessment prior to the commencement of T1, who will then opt out of the research essay, with a number of shorter pieces set and due throughout the course. Students who choose this option will have results released by 15 February 2023.

Late work & Word Limits
Please refer to the UNSW Law Assessment Procedure and Student Information.

Cost
Domestic students enrolled as Commonwealth Supported students in the undergraduate Law or JD program will be charged the Student Contribution Charge for the course. Full Fee Paying Domestic and International students will be charged Tuition fees for the course.

There will be an additional charge of an as yet to be determined A$xx which covers the cost of welcome and farewell functions, field trips and transport for field trips, additional guest lecturers, administration costs, and additional administrative expenses incurred by UNSW and USP.

Accommodation: Students should arrange their own accommodation. While bus services are frequent and cheap in Port Vila, you should try to be within walking distance or a short bus ride to the USP Emalus campus where the Law School is located.

IMPORTANT: The A$ charge does NOT include accommodation, airfares, departure taxes, meals (except for course functions), medical or travel insurance, and telephone or other communication charges. Please read the cost information very carefully and contact the Law & Justice Student Services team via the webforms unsw.to/webforms for clarification of total costs involved.

Application, Enrolment and Payment Procedure

Eligibility
UNSW students enrolled in the following programs are eligible to apply:

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)*
- Juris Doctor (9150)*

Prerequisites
* To enrol in this course, Bachelor of Laws (LLB) students will need to have completed at least 78 UOC of Law courses and Juris Doctor (JD) students need to have completed 72 UOC of JURD courses.

#Students are eligible to do this course as one of the two courses permitted from outside their program approved course list.

Cross institutional / non-award students wishing to enrol should contact law student services.

Scholarships
Twenty (20) New Colombo Plan scholarships of $3000 are available for eligible LLB students. Eligibility requirements include no previous New Colombo Plan scholarship and Australian citizenship. In the event that more than 20 LLB students are admitted to the course, scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic merit and broader contributions to the Law School.
Application form (plus Academic Statement)

Applications open: 10am Thursday 15 September 2022
Applications close: 4pm Friday 29 September 2022

An online application form with academic statement attached must be completed and will be accepted during the application period only. **Late applications will not be considered.** Applications will be selected on a ballot basis, with a select number of places reserved for UG, JD and PG students, and will not be considered on a first-come-first-served basis. Preference will be given to final year students who have not previously taken a Law School short course overseas. Students who are selected for the course and are eligible to enrol will be notified via their UNSW student email account by Friday 7 October.

Deposit Payment

Payment due: 4pm Friday 14 October 2022

A link to an online payment form will be sent to eligible students via student email. To secure enrolment, a non-refundable **deposit of A$500** must be paid by the above date. Once this payment has been made, you must return your Student Details Form to Law Student Services via the online form.

Refunds

There will be **no refund of the deposit** under any circumstances.

Final Payment

Final payment due: 4pm Friday 28 October 2022

The same procedure applies for the payment of the **balance**. In order to secure your place in the course, the full cost must be paid by the above date via the online form sent to successful students. You will only be enrolled in the course once the final payment has been received.

Refunds/Withdrawal

Once enrolled, no refund of the balance will be made unless you meet the exceptional circumstances criteria. In the case of exceptional circumstances such as sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control, refunds will be considered:

a) if you meet [UNSW Special Consideration requirements](#); AND

b) UNSW Law can find another student to attend the course in your place.

Travel

Students are required to make their own travel arrangements. There will be a **welcome dinner and orientation on Sunday evening, 15th January**, so please organise your arrival time to enable you to attend this function.

Students are free to organise their own tours of Vanuatu (as individuals or in groups) before or after the course dates.

You will find excellent information at [http://vanuatu.travel/](http://vanuatu.travel/)
Visas
You will find information about visas and immigration at https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/index.php
Students should consult the Vanuatu Embassy for definitive advice on visas. DO NOT apply for a student visa; these are for long term study only.

Insurance
You are required to read the UNSW Law Important Information for Students Travelling Overseas website and if selected for the course must also register with UNSW Travel Registration. You should obtain travel and health insurance as soon as your flight bookings have been arranged.

Accommodation
Accommodation will be discussed in the pre-departure meeting. Please do not book accommodation prior to this meeting. You should budget around $750 for two weeks accommodation (check in Sunday 15th Jan, check out Saturday 28th Jan).

Vanuatu is a developing country so accommodation, food etc may not be of the standard you are used to. You will find Vanuatu information at https://www.vanuatu.travel/en/index.php

Telephone and other communications charges are the responsibility of individual students and will not be paid by UNSW. If you are sharing the room with another student, please be sure that you have a clear understanding with each other about the use of the telephone and the allocation of expenses between you.

Pre-departure Meeting
Students MUST attend a one hour briefing session prior to enrolment in the course. The date, time, and location of this meeting will be confirmed closer to the date.

Administrative Communication
All administrative correspondence in preparation for the course will be via your UNSW student email address. Please ensure that you check your student email account regularly for updates and important information.

Student Conduct
Please note that by accepting enrolment in an overseas elective and going to a foreign country you are representing UNSW and UNSW Law School. Please be mindful of this, and that your behaviour and actions should not put you or your fellow students’ safety or reputation in jeopardy. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct. This will be discussed in more detail at the information meeting.

Further inquiries
Please direct general inquiries about the course to:

Law & Justice Student Services
Online: unsw.to/webforms
Phone: +61 2 8936 7005
Inquiries related to course content or on-shore support may be directed to:

**Brendan Edgeworth**  
Course Convenor  
b.edgeworth@unsw.edu.au  
Phone: 0409 771 991 (contact Law Student Centre until departure)  
Brendan will provide a mobile number on arrival in Vanuatu