

Law elective Course Information 2026

Foreword

This booklet has been put together for the benefit of our students, using their most frequently asked questions about law elective courses.

This booklet does not claim to be comprehensive and the information that has been provided is still subject to change.

We hope it will be a useful guide for our students to help with the elective course selection in their LLB.

On that note, a few tips from our advising team:

- You **must** include LAWS398 Legal Ethics as one of your Law elective courses in the LLB
- Group work is good. You are expected to have developed teamwork skills by the end of your studies, this is your chance, use it. That also applies to presentation skills and other soft skills we are trying to teach in addition to content. The more you are engaged in your course, the more you will get out of it.
- Use your first week in each semester wisely. Don't just go to your classes that you have officially enrolled in. Visit another elective class to check it out, in case you figure out you may not enjoy an elective that you enrolled in. You can find timetable information in the course information system. This way, you can make an informed choice to change your enrolment.
You have until Sunday 1 March 2026 to submit a change of enrolment to add or withdraw (with a refund in fees) from your S1 courses and until Sunday 26 July 2026 for your S2 courses.

We are here to support and guide you, contact us if you have any questions – lawandjusticedegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

All the best 😊

Your Advising Team

Semester 1

(Subject to change)

LAWS305	Company Law	Lynne Taylor
LAWS314	Environmental Law, Policy and Society	David Jefferson
LAWS320	NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990	Andrew Simpson
LAWS321	International Criminal Law	Neil Boister
LAWS323	Immigration and Refugee Law	Natalie Baird
LAWS324	Principles of Public International Law	Karen Scott
LAWS326	Treaty Settlement Negotiations	Martin Fisher
LAWS327	International Environmental Law P:LAWS324	Karen Scott
LAWS330	Intellectual Property Law	David Jefferson/ Olivia Erdelyi
LAWS344	Gender and the Law	Annick Masselot
LAWS348	Research Project	Marozane Spammers
LAWS359	Trial Advocacy* P:LAWS307 R:LAWS397	James Rapley
LAWS362	Disasters and the Law	John Hopkins
LAWS363	Employment Law	Annick Masselot/Abigail Osiki
LAWS366	Sentencing Theory and Practice	Debra Wilson
LAWS382	Legal Internship	Cheryl Green
LAWS398	Legal Ethics	Kathryn Dalziel
LLAW314	Serious Financial Crime P:LAWS202	Chat Le Nguyen
LLAW319	Special Topic: Cross-Border Business Transactions Law	Ricky Lee
LLAW326	Special Topic: Tikanga	tba

Semester 2

(Subject to change)

LAWS303	Advanced Employment Law P:LAWS363
LAWS307	The Principles of Evidence
LAWS309	Child and Family Law
LAWS332	Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security and Credit
LAWS338	World Trade Law
LAWS348	Research Project**
LAWS352	Taxation Law
LAWS358	The Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
LAWS371	International Investment Law and Arbitration
LAWS382	Legal Internship**
LAWS383	Law and Medicine
LAWS393	Contemporary Issues in Land Law P:LAWS205
LAWS396	Media Law
LAWS397	Civil Procedure* R:LAWS359
LLAW300	Pacific Legal Studies
LLAW315	Mental Health and Criminal Justice P:LAWS202
LLAW323	Fintech and the Law

Annick Masselot
Cassandra Mudgway
Ruth Ballantyne
Sascha Mueller

Christian Riffel
Marozane Spammers
Adrian
Sawyer/Alistair
Hodson
Shea Esterling
Christian Riffel
Cheryl Green
Debra Wilson
Toni Collins
Ursula Cheer
Mark Hanna
Natalie Baird
Marozane Spammers
Isa Alade

Law electives 2026

Te Kaupeka Ture | Faculty of Law



Notes

*those are limited entry courses with application deadlines as follows:

LAWS359 - 9 January 2026

LAWS358 - 19 June 2026

LAWS397 - 19 June 2026

Note, the limited entry courses for S2 2026 are not open for enrolment until 11 May 2026

**enrolment in these semester two courses opens from 11 May 2026

For semester two courses that aren't open for enrolment until 11 May 2026, you may choose a 'placeholder' course which you then drop when you ask for a change of enrolment (2026) to add any of those courses.

Law elective course information 2026

Te Kaupeka Ture | Faculty of Law



Semester 1

Course Information – LAWS305

Company Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Lynne Taylor

E-mail: lynne.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

LAWS 305 Company Law examines the key topics of company incorporation, separate corporate personality, company constitutions and shareholder agreements, company capacity, company relationships with third parties, company liability for crimes and civil wrongs, division of powers, shares and distributions, directors' duties, enforcement, and the use of limited liability company as a contemporary Māori organisational structure.

What can students expect in your classes?

There are three hours of company law classes scheduled each week during term time. You can expect a mix of lectures (although you are not expected to take detailed notes as full handouts are provided) and individual and group work. Workshop questions and tasks are interweaved with lectured material.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Private and commercial law

Why might students find your course exciting?

Companies are the engine room of the economy of NZ and other jurisdictions. There is one company in NZ for every eight humans. Companies permeate all areas of legal practice, not just commercial practice. If you wish to practice law, your law degree will look very odd if you haven't completed company law.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

A written assignment which they may complete individually or with another student.

A multi-part online quiz.

An open book final exam.

Course Information – LAWS321

International Criminal law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Professor Neil Boister

E-mail: neil.boister@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

International criminal law introduces students to the

- o development of the basic concepts and institutions of international criminal law,
- o the legal nature and elements of international crimes and the general principles of international criminal law, and
- o to the rules of international criminal procedure and evidence.

What can students expect in your classes?

There is a two hour class schedule once a week. The first part of the course concentrates from an historical perspective on how the international community has developed the international criminal tribunals beginning with the immediate postwar military tribunals and culminating in the International Criminal Court. The course explores the legal and political validity of these courts and their jurisdictions. The second part of the course examines the various crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC, focusing on their essential elements. The course adopts a positive view of international criminal law, but one critical of its weaknesses.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

The course is an amalgam of public international law because it is used to set up the institutions to prosecute international crimes, and criminal law because it examines the ingredients of those offences and the procedural and evidential difficulties that

Why might students find your course exciting?

The course is highly topical. Major political figures are currently the subject of arrest warrants issued by the ICC and the ICC is subject to political attack by major powers.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

A test and an exam.

Course Information – LAWS323

Immigration and Refugee Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Natalie Baird

E-mail: natalie.baird@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course provides an introduction to immigration and refugee law in New Zealand, with particular focus on the Immigration Act 2009. The course will cover the basic features of the 2009 Act, with approximately half the course spent considering immigration issues and the other half of the course on refugee law. The refugee component of the course will review the international protections available under the Refugee Convention, and the associated protections under the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and their domestic equivalents - "refugee status" and "protected person status" in New Zealand. The immigration component of the course will include the following topics: visas, appeals, deportation and citizenship.

What can students expect in your classes?

You can expect a mid-sized elective, with about 100 fellow classmates. It is a lecture style course with some class interaction. We spend six weeks on refugee law, and six weeks on immigration law. Some students take this course because they are passionate about international law - this is addressed through the refugee half of the course. Other students take this course because they think it will help them get a job in a law firm - this is addressed through the immigration half of the course. It is very much a "course of two halves"!

Which area of law does your course fit in?

General practice; international law.

Why might students find your course exciting?

This is a very case-based course. We read a lot of short decisions of the Immigration and Protection Tribunal. If you are interested in the world beyond New Zealand's shores, then these decisions are fascinating. We learn so much about other parts of the world and the hardships people face in their journeys to New Zealand. Refugee law is also the closest we get in New Zealand to death penalty cases - if the wrong decision is made about whether or not someone is a refugee, and they are sent home, which could be fatal.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

There are likely to be three assessments: 1) An opinion looking at IPT decisions; 2) Five weekly immigration quizzes; 3) A final exam. We used to have a very popular optional book review assignment but I am discontinuing that in 2026 because I have no interest in marking book reviews written by ChatGPT!

Course Information – LAWS324

Principles of Public International Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Karen Scott

E-mail: karen.scott@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course begins with an introduction to the nature and purpose of public international law and introduces students to its functions and to selected theories of international law. Students will explore the sources of public international law including custom, treaties and sources harder to categorise such as 'soft law'. Students will be introduced to the key players within the international system, namely entities in possession of international personality such as states, international organisations and, to a much lesser extent, individuals. Other entities that have informal or soft influence such as NGOs, multinational corporations and indigenous peoples groups will also be examined. Other topics covered by this course include selected fundamental principles of the international legal system, the relationship between national and international law, jurisdiction, state responsibility and the options available for the purpose of dispute settlement and responding to breaches of international obligations.

In 2025 topical case studies will be used to anchor and contextualise much of the material. The case studies will illustrate the parameters, potential and limitations of international law. The case studies for this year will comprise the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 (following their annexation of Crimea in 2014), the conflict in Palestine and climate change.

What can students expect in your classes?

See above

Which area of law does your course fit in?

International Law

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Essay and Exam

Course Information – LAWS326

Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Negotiations

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Martin Fisher

E-mail: martin.fisher@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the wider context of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process including legislation, policy and specific negotiations. It aims to familiarise students with the historical background of settlements, the key institutions and players relevant to the process, legal developments, and case-studies of important negotiations.

What can students expect in your classes?

In LAWS326 students can expect a mixture of law, history and politics. The course begins with a quick and broad overview of the history of Crown-Māori relations with a focus on historical Commissions of Inquiry and settlements. Very quickly we will move into the contemporary period exploring the establishment of the Treaty claims process through a mixture of litigation and political developments. A key focus will be on the work of the Waitangi Tribunal in hearing and reporting on Māori claims (as well as the lesser-known Crown Forestry Rental Trust), and how the Crown developed its system for directly negotiating and settling claims. We will explore the key players in the process such as claimants and their legal and financial advisors, and the Crown through Te Tari Whakatau (formerly known as the Office of Treaty Settlements), the Crown Law Office, Treasury and the Department of Conservation. Lastly, we will analyse case law regarding settlement negotiations, and specific case studies focusing on what was received by claimants: the 1992 fisheries settlement, the 1995 Waikato-Tainui raupatu/confiscation settlement, the 1998 Ngāi Tahu settlement, the 2010 Waikato River settlement, the 2014 Tūhoe and Whanganui River settlements.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

There are overlaps with a number of areas of law including Public, Environmental, Commercial and Maori land law.

Why might students find your course exciting?

Students will find the course exciting because of its intersection between law, politics and te ao Māori. Treaty settlement negotiations are a fast moving and constantly evolving process that will provide students with a solid foundation to understand this fundamentally important and unique aspect of New Zealand law and politics.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

In-class test during week 5, and two (2) 3,000 words essays on Treaty settlement case law and an analysis of a specific Treaty settlement.

Course Information – LAWS327

International Environmental Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Karen Scott

E-mail: karen.scott@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

An introduction to the regimes and principles of international environmental law using the critical lens of the Anthropocene. Students will study areas including climate change, biodiversity, freshwater and oceans.

What can students expect in your classes?

See above

Which area of law does your course fit in?

International law/ environmental law

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Essay and exam

Course Information – LAWS330

Intellectual Property Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Olivia Erdelyi

E-mail: olivia.erdelyi@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

Intellectual property (IP) law is concerned with legal rights that may be asserted with respect to products of the human intellect. However, the roots of IP rights (IPRs) go well beyond the remit of the legal realm.

From an economic perspective, IPRs form a subset of property rights. They are a form of regulation—an incentive system—to encourage creativity, knowledge creation, and innovation. The type of human creations that qualify as IP (e.g., ideas, inventions, expressive works) may exist separately from their unique physical embodiment, which makes their production tricky under competitive market conditions. Yet creation and innovation are crucial to the advancement of human societies and IPRs play a crucial role in both domestic and global economies. Accordingly, economic theories related to IPRs are centering on the creation of incentive systems that spur optimal levels of innovation.

Philosophical theories have also influenced the evolution and current system of IPRs. Examples include Locke's labour theory of property positing that labour creates an entitlement to its fruits or Hegel's proposition that possessing property is inherent to freedom, sparking the idea that certain aspects of IPRs, like moral rights, should be just as inalienable as freedom itself.

This 36-hour course is designed as an all-round, practice-oriented, introductory course to IP law. It starts by giving an overview of the regulatory and economic underpinnings, as well as the international governance of IPRs to provide students with a holistic understanding of the subject. Building on these foundations, it then introduces many of the key areas of IP law, including copyright, registered trade marks, plant variety rights, and patents. While the aim is to give as comprehensive as possible of an overview of this fascinating area, given the extent of IP law and the single-semester length of this course, only selected areas—like copyright or plant variety rights—are addressed in more depth, while others are merely introduced at a high-level. The assessments have a strong practical touch and are designed to train key legal and other skills sought after in law graduates (e.g., writing a legal opinion, teamwork, and negotiation skills).

What can students expect in your classes?

Discussions, teamwork, and practical focus

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Commercial

Why might students find your course exciting?

Topic/different teaching approach compared to other law courses.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Practical, in part group assessments (e.g., legal opinion, trademark notice of opposition, licensing exercise).

Course Information – LAWS348

Research Project

Semester One and Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Marozane Spammers

E-mail: marozane.spammers@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

LAWS348 involves students writing a 7000 word research essay on an agreed topic supervised by a member of the academic staff. After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify a research question suitable for exploration in a 7000 word research paper.
- Plan a programme of research using a suitable research methodology.
- Work both independently and with the supervisor of your research paper.
- Produce a 7000 word research paper on a legal topic which, in turn, demonstrates that you can:
 - 1) locate, use and refer to primary and secondary sources relevant to the topic of the paper;
 - 2) synthesise information from a number of different sources to construct their own understanding and/or shape their own viewpoint;
 - 3) critically evaluate information and/or formulate and test arguments;
 - 4) provide an appropriate answer to their identified research question
 - 5) present information using a clear and logical structure;
 - 6) write clearly and in a manner that follows the writing conventions, numbering system and formatting requirements in the New Zealand Law Style Guide; and
 - 7) manage your time to meet any requirements set by your supervisor and assessment deadlines.

What can students expect in your classes?

The course has no lectures, only a few meetings and preparatory sessions in the start of the semester. The course involves independent research (guided by a supervisor).

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Any area of law

Why might students find your course exciting?

This course offers the chance for students to explore an area of law of their choice in depth and practice their research skills.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

One research proposal (pass/fail), and one 7000 word research paper.

Course Information – LAWS362

Disasters and the Law

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

John Hopkins

E-mail: w.j.hopkins@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course provides students with the knowledge to incorporate awareness of disaster law into their future studies and careers. The course ensures that students are provided with a broad overview of the role of law in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and their management (DRM) in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific region and the globe. Key foundational topics include the theory of disasters, the disaster "cycle" and the importance of vulnerability to an understanding of the role of law in disasters. The course also provides students with key practical examples of the role and importance of law in the understanding of disasters and the practice of disaster management. These examples are drawn from a variety of legal disciplines, across public, private and criminal law. The specific examples will draw upon UC's internationally recognised expertise (and guest lecturers) in the field of disaster law and may include, but are not limited to, topics such as family law, resource management, insurance, criminal justice, privacy law, legal obligations and employment law as they apply to all aspects of the disaster "cycle".

What can students expect in your classes?

The course is team taught by members of the Institute of Law, Emergencies and Disasters (LEAD) team and visiting staff associated with the Institute. Face to face teaching is undertaken through a weekly two-hour lecture/seminar session.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

This is a multi-disciplinary course which explores the topic of Disaster Law from a functional perspective. As a result it has elements of Public Law, Contract Law, Tort Law, Land Law, International Law and Comparative Law. In addition, students will also be exposed to non-law related topics including planning law.

Why might students find your course exciting?

In addition to the personal and social costs, disasters cost the global economy around \$200 Billion annually, but the true costs of so-called cascading impacts (refugee flows, wider economic impacts) are estimated at \$2.3 Trillion per year. But disasters are not inevitable. They occur when humans expose themselves to hazards without resolving the vulnerabilities this creates. Law has a large role to play in addressing these growing impacts. Disaster Law is an emerging field of law which attempts to understand the role law plays and how it can be used to resolve disaster impacts. UC at the forefront of its development. LEAD is the only research and teaching centre of its kind in the world. For those who are interested in these topics there is no better place to study them.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Currently the assessment consists of a research essay (40%) and a final exam (60%). However, a final decision on assessment will be taken nearer the time.

Course Information – LAWS366

Sentencing Theory and Practice

Semester One 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Debbie Wilson

E-mail: debra.wilson@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

A discussion of the theories and principles relating to sentencing law in NZ. Consideration of specific sentences and current events in sentencing

What can students expect in your classes?

Discussions of theoretical, practical and political underpinnings of sentencing

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Criminal law

Why might students find your course exciting?

Sentencing for criminal offenders is described as more of an art than a science. There are numerous considerations in sentencing, making sentencing a more 'human' process than the 'guilt or innocence' phase. We also discuss current debates on sentencing, and consider political agendas.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

take home test and final exam

Law elective course information 2026

Te Kaupeka Ture | Faculty of Law



Semester 2

Course Information – LAWS309

Child and Family Law

Semester Two 2026
0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Ruth Ballantyne
E-mail: ruth.ballantyne@live.com

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to family law in Aotearoa New Zealand. Family law is a core part of general legal practice, as well as being a speciality practice area. Even if you do not wish to become a family lawyer, all lawyers are expected to have a working understanding of basic family law issues and to be able to provide legal advice to individuals from a range of diverse family backgrounds. Such knowledge may also be helpful in your current or future lives.

The purpose of this course is to develop your understanding of the key legislation and case law necessary to resolve complex multi-issue family law disputes and critically examine issues of principle and policy raised by Aotearoa's current child and family law framework and its operation in practice. To this end, Child and Family Law provides an overview of the family justice system and focuses on several key topics such as adult relationships, the different ways to become a parent, parenting orders and other disputes between parents, family violence, and care and protection. These topics illuminate the growing diversity of families in Aotearoa and the importance of Māori understandings of whānau and whakapapa.

What can students expect in your classes?

This course involves ongoing discussions about law reform, social policy, judicial discretion, and the best interests of children, which many students find interesting and/or challenging. My classes celebrate diversity and families and whānau of all shapes and sizes. You will be encouraged to think for yourselves and develop your own views on a wide range of family law issues, while learning how to advocate for a wide range of clients.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Family law encompasses elements of both private and public law, as well as general practice.

Why might students find your course exciting?

Family law is an area of law that will impact most people at some point in their lives (for better or for worse), so it is of practical application for most students.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

A group video law reform assessment, a quiz, and an exam.

Course Information – LAWS332

Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security and Credit

Semester Two 2026
0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Sascha Mueller

E-mail: sascha.mueller@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course covers two major areas of commercial law, consumer credit contracts and personal property securities. Credits are an important part of our economy and as such frequently used. But lenders face the risk that the borrower will not or cannot repay their credits. Credits are therefore frequently secured against some of the borrower's personal property. This course explores the rules around both credits and personal property securities and how these concepts interact. It also takes a critical view on whether consumers are adequately protected and whether future reform is desirable.

What can students expect in your classes?

Personal property securities and credit contracts are very important areas if you want to work in a commercial law firm. It is easier to learn and understand the topics if you are interested in them. The course therefore demonstrates the relevance of these areas of law through every-day examples. This course is taught using the "flipped learning" methodology. All substantive subject material is delivered by way of recordings and reading assignments, which you will be viewing/reading in preparation for classes. This frees up class time to practice the learned material on problem scenarios and engage in discussion of the workings of the law and policy. The assessments of the course are geared towards your future role in a commercial law firm.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Commercial Law

Why might students find your course exciting?

This course touches on topics that are bread and butter for most law firms. It also discusses consumer credit, which many people have at least some experience with. The flipped classroom allows students to practice applying the law and discussing issues and questions they have with the material in real time.

Student feedback: "Really enjoyed the flipped classroom", "...does a really good job at making the difficult content easy to understand", "...it has actually become one of my favourites and one that I genuinely look forward to."

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

There are two assessments: a legal opinion assignment that simulates real life law firm work. Students have to use a case file of 8-10 documents to figure out what happened in the scenario, use the (sometimes contradicting) material to explain the legal situation to a client and recommend future steps. And a final exam, usually consisting of one or two problem questions.

Course Information – LAWS338

World Trade Law

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Chris Riffel

E-mail: christian.riffel@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the regulation of international trade under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). New Zealand is a Member of the WTO, the organization responsible for regulating trade in goods, services and intellectual property at the international level. Moreover, these days trade rules impact on more than just trade: they restrict (or at least impact upon) Members' policies in connection with (but not limited to) the environment, human rights, health, and culture.

The course will cover the institutional rules of the WTO set out in the WTO Agreement, the procedural rules set out in the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), as well as the substantive rules. As to the substantive law, the course will focus on the three core WTO agreements, namely:

- the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (in goods) (GATT),
- the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and
- the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

The GATT lays down the basic principles of trade liberalization and will therefore take centre stage. One of the main themes will be the relationship between the WTO rules and competing social policies, with special emphasis on trade and the environment. As far as trade in services is concerned, we will elaborate the differences in the way the WTO regulates trade in goods and services.

What can students expect in your classes?

Students will be able to dissect political discussions about free trade from a legal perspective.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

International Economic Law, International Law.

Why might students find your course exciting?

Topical issues; interactive teaching; class discussions. Of particular interests to students who also pursue a BCom.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Essay and final exam.

Course Information – LAWS352

Taxation Law

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Andrew Maples

E-mail: andrew.maples@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

Lawyers, as well as accountants, play an important role in the field of taxation, particularly in advising clients on their tax liability, acting on their behalf in dealings with Inland Revenue, and appearing before the Taxation Review Authority and the Courts. This course explores key areas in taxation relevant to practicing lawyers.

What can students expect in your classes?

Students are provided (in advance) with lecture PowerPoints as well as other relevant material, such as Inland Revenue Operational Statements. Additionally, for certain topics, lecture notes (in Word format) are also made available. We also run a one-hour weekly all-class workshop where we discuss pre-set scenarios and questions. These are generally very interactive and aim to support the learning of students.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Public Law/Revenue Law/Commercial and Corporate Law

Why might students find your course exciting?

Tax - despite its reputation - is an interesting and varied area of law and complements commercial papers more generally. Most transactions have a tax aspect (for example, the sale of crypto assets, the sale of illegal substances). Tax as a discipline is also very broad, covering everything from tax avoidance and tax evasion through to tax issues for small and large businesses, high-net-worth individuals, and beyond. The course considers fascinating cases and also draws on the experiences of the lecturers, all of whom have engaged in the tax sphere in differing ways before joining UC.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

An open-book test, an open-book exam and a group assignment.

Course Information – LAWS358

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Semester Two 2026
0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Shea Esterling
E-mail: shea.esterling@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course is designed to give students a solid understanding of the international legal frameworks for the protection and promotion of indigenous rights by introducing core legal instruments and institutions. In particular, this course will focus on international human rights law, though presenting where appropriate frameworks from across a range of domestic jurisdictions including Aotearoa New Zealand inviting a comparative approach to the protection and promotion of indigenous rights. This international subject matter will introduce students to a variety of historical and contemporary administrative, art, criminal, constitutional and property law issues which concern Indigenous Peoples. These cross jurisdictional and cross cutting issues will challenge students to think critically about the current transnational approach to Indigenous rights. Course materials and assessments will be drawn from a variety of primary and secondary sources including cases, commentary, legislation, popular media, and other sources as appropriate.

What can students expect in your classes?

The course involves a 2-hour lecture- either in person or pre-recorded-- at the start of the week followed by a 1-hour in person workshop later in the same week over a period of 8 weeks. The workshops are in person and not recorded. They are very interactive and dive deeper into the content from the lecture for that week.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

international indigenous rights
international human rights
international law

Why might students find your course exciting?

This course explores indigenous rights at the international level from land and heritage rights to rights to self-determination and culture. It includes an experiential component re the heritage portion of the course as well as guest lectures from individuals with practical experience of working in indigenous rights in Aotearoa New Zealand including a visit from the Indigenous Rights team at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. This course will allow you to improve your writing skills while learning about international indigenous rights, which ultimately will help you to critically reflect on the approach to indigenous rights in Aotearoa New Zealand.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

This is an intensive writing-based course aimed at improving your writing skills through the medium of indigenous rights. The assessment consists of a research proposal followed by a 3500 paper that includes self-reflection and response to feedback.

Course Information – LAWS371

International Investment Law & Arbitration

Semester Two 2026
0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Chris Riffel

E-mail: christian.riffel@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course complements LAWS338 (World Trade Law). In LAWS338, we deal with the international trade rules as set out in the WTO Agreement. These rules apply almost universally. In this course, we will cover international investment agreements, which are bilateral, such as Chapter 11 of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement, or regional, such as Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

We will address the substantive rules, i.e. the interpretation and application of investment treaties, expropriation, standards of protection, as well as the procedural rules, i.e. the settlement of disputes (state vs state and investor vs state).

LAWS371 and LAWS338 together belong to the broader area of international economic law.

What can students expect in your classes?

Students learn to draft legal text to protect foreign investments at the desired level, and will be able to assess the pros and cons of the chosen level of international investment protection.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

International Economic Law, International Law.

Why might students find your course exciting?

Topical issues; interactive teaching; class discussions. Of particular interests to students who also pursue a BCom.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Essay and final exam.

Course Information – LAWS383

Law and Medicine

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Debbie Wilson

E-mail: debra.wilson@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

A discussion of current medical law issues in NZ.

What can students expect in your classes?

Discussions of law, ethics, public policy and cultural considerations in medical law.

This is a discussion based course- lectures will **NOT** be recorded.

Students will be challenged to give their opinions and to understand other peoples opinions

Which area of law does your course fit in?

medical law, with elements of criminal law, human rights law and tort law

Why might students find your course exciting?

The topics all require consideration of law, ethics, and public policy, involving life and death decisions

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

written assignment and final exam

Course Information – LAWS396

Media Law

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Ursula Cheer

E-mail: ursula.cheer@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

Media law is a fascinating and increasingly important subject. During the course we investigate and analyse the nature of free speech and the public interest as they relate to the media. This involves looking at the most important laws that impact on the media, including defamation, privacy, court reporting and contempt, breach of confidence, copyright, and restrictions on news-gathering methods. There is also an oral presentation based on research about the issue of the protection by the state of Te Reo, the Māori language, in broadcasting. That assessment also incorporates the use of GenAI for research.

What can students expect in your classes?

Teaching in the course is active rather than passive. This involves the use of pub quizzes, group discussion and feedback, a haiku competition, case studies, a real time breaking news story advice exercise, spot debates, media monitoring, and student responsibility exercises.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Media Law is very broad. It connects to diverse topics from both private and public law

Why might students find your course exciting?

The active teaching in the course challenges students and strengthens research and oral skills. Topics have great currency, connecting to real world issues such as the declining state of media and what impact this has on our democracy. The real world simulations help develop skills for any workplace, in particular, for working in groups and working with time constraints. Students also have fun while they are learning.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Assessment is as varied as possible, and is made up of:

1. A filmed oral presentation from which there are two assessments:
 - i. The presentation worth 10%;
 - ii. The research for the presentation and a reflection on it, worth 20%.
2. A simulated breaking news story from which two assessments are:
 - i. A group summary opinion worth 10% for each group member;
 - ii. An individual one page reflection document worth 10%.and
3. A 2 hour closed book final exam worth 50%

Course Information – LLAW300

Pacific Legal Studies

Semester Two 2026
0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Natalie Baird
E-mail: natalie.baird@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the law and legal systems in Pacific island countries and territories. It examines customary law and its relationship with state law against a background of legal pluralism and cultural relativism. It provides students with the opportunity to place law within a regional context and undertake research of regional significance. This course may be available to students enrolled in other degrees (with waiver of co-requisites). This course is usually offered in alternate years. It will not be offered in 2027.

What can students expect in your classes?

This class is usually small (approx 40 students). It is very interactive, and involves a lot of class activities and discussions. You will do best if you attend most of the lectures in person. It is not at all suitable for study by ECHO alone. I expect regular attendance and active participation.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Comparative legal studies.

Why might students find your course exciting?

If you want to have a break from doctrinal black-letter law, this could be the course for you. The first half of the course involves looking at common features of Pacific Island legal systems - the state law/customary law binary, constitutions, customary land. In the second half, we look at a discrete topic each week such as women in the Pacific, West Papua, climate change, regionalism. Towards the end of the course, we also have a Panel with New Zealand based Pacific lawyers.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

The assessment is likely to involve a portfolio of weekly tasks, an oral presentation, and a research essay. (But if student use of generative AI is too dominant, it will be a boring old exam!)

Course Information – LLAW315

Mental Health and Criminal Justice

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Marozane Spamers

E-mail: marozane.spamers@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

Mental health has received unprecedented political attention in recent years. The high proportions of offenders and prisoners presenting with mental disorders highlights the significance and the urgency of developing and implementing effective mental health policy. The course will equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the impact and importance of mental health in the criminal justice system. Students will gain valuable practical and theoretical information and skills regarding:

- the role of mental health in the explanation of crime;
 - the management of mentally ill persons and offenders by police, the courts and corrections;
 - the role of expert evidence;
 - the importance of bicultural competence;
 - the mental health of victims and criminal justice practitioners;
 - the interface between the mental health care system and criminal justice system in New Zealand;
 - the roles and importance of the various agencies involved at each stage of the criminal justice process;
- and
- the changing landscape of mental health attitudes, policy, and legislation.

What can students expect in your classes?

The course has one 2-hour lecture per week, where students will have access to the expertise of a number of guest lecturers who will speak to their experience and expertise working and/or researching in the intersection of mental health and criminal justice. Lectures are informative and exciting and interactive class discussion is facilitated.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Criminal law, criminal procedure, mental health law, criminal justice

Why might students find your course exciting?

The topic of mental health in context of the criminal justice system is very topical and is an exciting and developing field of scholarship. Mental health touches every aspect of the criminal justice system, whether they are the perpetrators or victims of crime, or legal and criminal justice professionals working in the space. The course engages with law, criminology, psychology and political science to provide a holistic understanding of the nuanced issues at play, and takes a rights-based, culturally informed and critical approach to prepare graduates for the realities of mental health in the New Zealand justice system.

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

The course has three items of assessment: An assignment (Students will be expected to identify an area for law or policy change within a given set of facts, explain the existing law/policy framework, discuss what they would change and motivate their discussion through critical reflection on the available literature.); a weekly quiz, and an exam.

Course Information – LLAW323

Fintech and the Law

Semester Two 2026

0.125 EFTS | 15 Points

Kairuruku Akoranga | Course Coordinator

Isa Alade

E-mail: isa.alade@canterbury.ac.nz

Whakamahuki | Course Description

This course explores legal and regulatory issues around innovative fintech products like peer-to-peer (P2P) lending, crowdfunding, buy-now-pay-later (BNPL), robo-advice, blockchain, cryptocurrencies/digital assets etc.

What can students expect in your classes?

You will learn how fintech is reshaping banking, payments, and investment globally. You will also explore the laws and regulations that govern fintech in New Zealand/internationally and engage with emerging issues like blockchain, cryptocurrencies, open banking, and data privacy. The discussions in class will also cover the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Pasifika perspectives in financial innovation.

Which area of law does your course fit in?

Financial Services Law

Why might students find your course exciting?

Students use apps, digital wallets, and online banking daily and this course explains the laws shaping those tools. Also, students interested in law, business, technology, or policy will gain knowledge that is in high demand in law firms, financial institutions, start-ups, and government

What type of assessment(s) are you likely using in your course?

Students will be assessed through a mix of individual and group work plus a final exam.