**Course in Papua New Guinea, Culture and Politics**

**Course Description**

This course seeks to explore the cultural context of PNG and relate this reality to contemporary issues that dominate the international perception of Papua New Guinea. This course covers a range of familiar issues including environmental protection, land owner disputes, political corruption, economic underperformance, law and order and security. With this in mind the course concentrates on land and development, custom and legislation, electoral reforms, and government priorities, which are the areas in which these issues have percolated to prominence. While this course does not pretend to offer the final answer to rectify the obvious problems it does advise as to steps for improvement regarding specific issues.

**Course outcomes:**

It is expected that students will have achieved an understanding of the international context and realities of a developing nation in the South Pacific region.

The student will gain a greater understanding of the internal politics and challenges of economic development as well as the complex relations with regional powers such as China and Australia.

Day One: **Melanesian History, Culture and Philosophy**

Readings:

Lea, D. “Philosophy in Melanesia,” in Oliver Leaman (ed.), *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Asian Philosophy*, (London: Routledge, Kegan, Paul, 2001): 351-356; Lea, D. “Tully and de Soto on Cultural Diversity,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy*“ 19, No 1 (2002): 56-69).

Day Two: **The PNG political system: Governance in Papua New Guinea and Melanesia**

Readings:

Policy Making and Implementation: Studies from Papua New Guinea.   
<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/series/state-society-and-governance-melanesia/policy-making-and-implementation>   
Particularly chapters 2, 3 and 11. Papua New Guinea - Government and society | Britannica.comhttps://www.britannica.com/place/Papua-New-Guinea/Government-and-society

Day Three **Customary Melanesian Land and its Cultural Basis**

Readings;

Lea, D. : Lea, D A Jurisprudential Assessment of Nozick's Natural Right to Property with Reference To Melanesian Customary Ownership,"  *Sophia* 33, No.2, (1994):48-63; Lea, D. “Lockean Property Rights, Tully's Community Ownership, and Melanesian Customary Communal Ownership," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 25, No.1, (Spring 1994): 117-132. "Do Communitarian Values justify P.N.G. and/or Fijian systems of land Tenure?" *Agriculture and Human Value* 14 (1997):115-126; Lea, D., "Aboriginal Rights and Conservative Theory,"  *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 15, Issue 1, (1998):1-13, Blackwells.

Day four **Customary Melanesian Land within a Modern legal Framework**

Readings.

Lea, D., “Protecting Papua New Guinea’s Landowners: A Critical Review of The Land Registration (Amendment) Act 2009 and the Land Groups Incorporation (Amendment) Act 2009,” *Social Development Issues* 35, Issue 3, (2013):63-81.; Lea, D. “New Initiatives in the Development of Customary Land: Group versus Individual Interests,” *Pacific Economic Bulletin* 24, Issue. 1. (2009): 49-64.

Day Five **Melanesian Customary Land Tenure and implications for Development**

Readings:

Lea, D., “Incorporated Land Groups in Papua New Guinea: Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution,”  *The Pacific Economic Bulletin,* 17/1 (2002):53-65. Lea, D., "Melanesian Axiology, Communal Land Tenure, and the Prospect of Sustainable Development within Papua New Guinea," *Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics* 6, (1993): 89-101. Lea, D., "The Bougainville Crisis and the Hermeneutics of Distributive Justice," *Alternatives: Social Transformation and Humane Governance* 19, No.1, (Winter 1994): 1-22; “Dependency theory and its relevance to Papua New Guinea,” *Pacific Economic Bulletin*, 15 No. 2 (Nov. 2000*).* Tim Curtin and David Lea, “Land Titling and Socioeconomic Development in the South Pacific: A Review Article” *Pacific Economic Bulletin* 21 (1) (2006): 153-181. “A Freedom based Defense of the Implementation of Private Ownership Rights in Papua New Guinea,” *Social Development Issues,* volume number 33, Issue 2, (2011): 28-48

Day Six**: Environmental Issues in Melanesia**

Readings:

Lea, D. "The PNG forestry industry, incorporated entities, and environmental protection". *Pacific Economic Bulletin* 20 issue 1, (2005): 168-177. “Associated Ethical Issues for REDD Based Emissions Trading Schemes in Melanesia.” *Social Development Issues,* 34, issue 2, (2012): 51-66.

Day Seven: **International Relations and Security**

[Readings:](Papua New Guinea's foreign relations in the era of Sino-American rivalryhttps://www.aspistrategist.org.au/papua-new-guineas-foreign-relations-in-the-era-of-si...)

[Chapter 16. Foreign Policy Making - ANU Press](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=13&ved=2ahUKEwiLnKPks7_hAhVzguYKHfUrCYw4ChAWMAJ6BAgGEAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpress-files.anu.edu.au%2Fdownloads%2Fpress%2Fp78541%2Fmobile%2Fch16.html&usg=AOvVaw2nNmuUJCzowAUYN60_n5Sx)

[press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p78541/mobile/ch16.html](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=13&ved=2ahUKEwiLnKPks7_hAhVzguYKHfUrCYw4ChAWMAJ6BAgGEAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpress-files.anu.edu.au%2Fdownloads%2Fpress%2Fp78541%2Fmobile%2Fch16.html&usg=AOvVaw2nNmuUJCzowAUYN60_n5Sx)

[Papua New Guinea's Great Power Conflict | Harvard Political Review](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKEwjy2YyKzr_hAhUFhuYKHcaAAw4QFjACegQIAxAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fharvardpolitics.com%2Fworld%2Fpapua-new-guinea-proxy-for-the-great-powers%2F&usg=AOvVaw1c7FGLWSRShgMgfuM6_JG5)

[harvardpolitics.com/world/papua-new-guinea-proxy-for-the-great-powers/](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKEwjy2YyKzr_hAhUFhuYKHcaAAw4QFjACegQIAxAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fharvardpolitics.com%2Fworld%2Fpapua-new-guinea-proxy-for-the-great-powers%2F&usg=AOvVaw1c7FGLWSRShgMgfuM6_JG5)

Ron May, Papua New Guinea: External and Internal Security Issues*, Security Challenges*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Summer 2012), pp. 47-60.

Day Eight: **Internal Security: Crime and Tribal Conflict**

[Readings: World Report 2018: Papua New Guinea | Human Rights Watch](Readings:     World Report 2018: Papua New Guinea | Human Rights Watchhttps://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/papua-new-guinea)

[https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/papua-new-guinea](Readings:     World Report 2018: Papua New Guinea | Human Rights Watchhttps://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/papua-new-guinea)

[Stop Sorcery Violence in Papua New Guinea](http://Stop Sorcery Violence in Papua New Guineawww.stopsorceryviolence.org/)

[www.stopsorceryviolence.org/](http://Stop Sorcery Violence in Papua New Guineawww.stopsorceryviolence.org/)

['Arc of Instability'? Melanesia in the early 2000s - ANU Open Research]('Arc of Instability'? Melanesia in the early 2000s - ANU Open Researchhttps://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/.../2/ArcOfInstability.pdf)

[https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/.../2/ArcOfInstability.pdf]('Arc of Instability'? Melanesia in the early 2000s - ANU Open Researchhttps://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/.../2/ArcOfInstability.pdf)

LAW AND ORDER IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Maev OCollins http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ssgm/papers/working\_papers/maev2.htm

Day Nine: **Governance in the Developing World and Melanesia**

Readings:

Lea, D., "The Ideals of Democracy: Are They Appropriate Goals for Developing States?" Philosophy, Culture, and Traditions, vol. 3, 2005: 171-195; Lea, D., “Corruption and Stakeholder Theory: Their Relevance to Development in Papua New Guinea,” in eds. J. Hooker & P. Madsen, *International Corporate Responsibility: Exploring the Issues.* ISBN 0-88748-401-8, (Pittsburgh: Carnegie Mellon University Press):275-293; Lea, D.,“

Day Ten: **Elections and Electoral Reform in Papua New Guinea**

Readings:

Lea, D., Can Democratic Reform Enhance PNG’s Economic Performance?” *Pacific Economic Bulletin*. 19, Issue 1, (2004): 116-125;

forthcoming “Lea D., PNG Elections as Rituals”.

**Assessment:**

To be arranged.