Genetically modified organisms have been touted as a solution to global food security. However, the potential risks presented by GM crops include: the impact on non-target organisms; gene transfer from the GM crop into related species; persistence or invasiveness of GM crops; presence of antibiotic resistance genes in the GM crop; and danger of GM crops to human health. Within the framework of regulatory risk theory, this unit adopts an international and comparative approach to assessing the regulation of GMOs. The jurisdictions covered are the European Union, Australia and the United States. The similarities and differences between these regulatory frameworks are analysed in the context of ecologically sustainable development. In addition, the movement of GMOs between countries, and the implication of this for developing countries, is discussed in accordance with the Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety, Disputes arising under the General Agreement on Trade and Services, and their resolution by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body are also referred to. The lecturers in this unit are Professor Han Somsen from Tilburg University in the Netherlands and Professor Rosemary Lyster. Professor Somsen is one of the EU’s leaders in the area of Biotechnology and is Director of the Tilburg Institute for Technology, Law and Society. He is the co-editor of a new journal Law, Technology and Innovation.

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GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS & ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
5 & 7 & 8-9 JUNE 2010
PROFESSOR ROSEMARY LYSTER, SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL & PROFESSOR JOHANNES SOMSEN, TILBURG UNIVERSITY

OBJECTIVES
- Investigate the appropriate regulation of GMOs from interdisciplinary perspectives including science, ethics, economics and environmental law.

CONTENT
The potential risks presented by GM crops include:
- The impact on non-target organisms
- Gene transfer from the GM crop into related species
- Persistence or invasiveness of GM crops
- Presence of antibiotic resistance genes in the GM crop
- Danger of GM crops to human health

TIMETABLE
Semester 1 Intensive
4-5 & 7-8 June 2010

ASSESSMENT
- Class Participation (20%)
- 1 x 8,000 Word Essay (80%)

APPLICABLE DEGREES
Master of Laws (LLM)
Master of Environmental Law (MEL)
Master of Environmental Science & Law (ME envSci&Law)
Master of Global Law (MGlobL)
Master of International Law (MIL)
Graduate Diploma in Law (GradDipLaw)

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
You can enrol in this unit on an LPD basis. Seminars, courses and units of study offered under Sydney Law School’s LPD Program meet the necessary requirements of both the Law Society of New South Wales and the New South Wales Bar Association in relation to their individual members.

SINGLE UNIT ENROLMENT
You can enrol in this subject on a single unit or non-award basis if you do not wish to commit to a Masters or Graduate Diploma. You can continue to add units via this method, and provided you meet the relevant requirements, you can also qualify for a Graduate Diploma or Masters if you so wish.

CROSS INSTITUTIONAL STUDY
Subject to approval from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Coursework), candidates in other Faculties at the University of Sydney or from other universities may be able to enrol in this unit.

FEE
$2,760 (Local Students)
$3,510 (International Students)

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