



University of the  
West of England

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

**Code:** UJUTNE-20-2

**Title:** Business Law

**Version:** 5

**Level:** 2

**UWE credit rating:** 20

**ECTS credit rating:** 10

**Module type:** Standard

**Owning Faculty:** FBL

**Field:** Law Undergraduate

**Faculty Committee approval:** QMAC

**Date:** July 2011

**Valid from:** September 2008  
(Revised September 2011)

**Discontinued from:**

**Contributes towards:** BA (Hons) Business Studies, BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** No person may take this module who has passed modules in Contract and Company Law or their equivalent in a law degree.

### **Aim of module:**

- To promote a rigorous approach to the study of law in a business context
- Ability to appreciate and utilise legal rules in a business context
- Ability to question, evaluate and analyse legal concepts
- Ability to demonstrate logical and practical approaches to the analysis of legal issues
- Ability to communicate these decisions in the written or oral medium clearly, concisely, and accurately
- Develop an ability to initiate and carry through study and research, both individually and/or as part of a group, as required
- To meet the requirements of the relevant professional bodies.

### **Learning outcomes:**

At the end of the module successful students should be able:

- To describe and illustrate an outline of the English Legal System, and of the selected areas of the laws of contract, torts, employment and organisations relevant to business. *(assessed in all elements of all Components)*
- Show an understanding of the English Legal System *(assessed in one element of Component B and potentially in Component A)*
- Solve simple problems with a legal element *(assessed in one element of Component B and potentially in Component A)*
- Evaluate the interplay of business and legal considerations *(assessed in one element of Component B and potentially in Component A)*
- Find and apply the appropriate legal principles in order to identify the relevant facts of a problem. *(assessed in one element of Component B and potentially in Component A)*

- Identify when social, economic or political considerations may affect the law, or its application. (*not specifically assessed but expected to be including in wider reading aiding assessments*)
- Recognise when law is part of a wider problem, and whether it is of major or minor importance. (*not specifically assessed but expected to be including in wider reading aiding assessments*)
- Research a problem with a legal element using traditional library skills, the knowledge and skills of other persons, and IT (*assessed in one element of Component B*)
- Communicate, present and defend ideas to peers and lecturers orally and in writing. Make use of feedback given by peers and lecturers (*not specifically assessed*)

### **Syllabus outline:**

The main divisions and Sources of English Law, including the European Union

The English Legal System including courts, tribunals and other ways of resolving disputes, the legal profession. The differences between criminal and civil law, and ways of enforcing Court judgements

The Human Rights Act, or other topical matters that illustrate problems of law-making and enforcement in the business world or private life

Selected aspects of the law of torts affecting business e.g. The Consumer Protection Act, aspects of the law of negligence, vicarious liability, contribution and indemnity

The law of contract e.g. formation, terms including exclusion of liability, defects, termination and remedies

An outline of the law of agency, e.g. formation, duties of the parties and authority of the agent

The law of employment e.g. the contracts of service and for services, dismissal, redundancy, and discrimination

Company law e.g. partnerships and companies compared, formation of partnerships and companies, share and loan capital, maintenance of capital, public issues including contents and rules for prospectuses and listing particulars, the relationship between members and management including role and duties of directors, secretary and auditors, general meetings, majority control and minority protection, insolvency and winding up including administration

Items required for exemption by professional bodies, particularly the Accountancy Profession, will be covered each year, but other items will not all be covered in the same depth.

The syllabus will be interpreted to enable students to understand and use the legal system they will meet. In particular Company Law is likely to change considerably, and the balance of the syllabus will change with it. When possible topical problems covered by the general media will be used for assessed work, so students have the widest range of sources to research.

### **Teaching and learning methods:**

Students will have the opportunity and facilities to question, understand, analyses and evaluate the law in its historical, practical, academic and social context. The approach is student centred and uses a variety of techniques to encourage independent thought and constructive criticism. Dialogue is promoted between student and lecturer, and between students in an inter-active relationship which emphasises the flow of information and criticism between students and lecturers.

The module is delivered only to non law students. The general learning outcomes and approaches are very similar to other modules within the Law Undergraduate Modular Scheme, but it is recognised that this module forms only a part of the studies of these students, and that unlike law students they may not have much further legal education before having to solve problems with a legal element.

Every topic in the syllabus may not be covered in one academic year. Areas which have topical significance may be developed at greater length, and less important areas delineated in outline only.

Students will be expected to conduct research with both traditional and electronic sources and will be instructed how to do this, where necessary, within the module.

### *Student preparation*

- Lectures:

Students may be given directed preliminary reading from recommended texts. Material may be given out in advance so as to provide the basis for practical exercises or more detailed discussion of topics to be conducted within the lecture. The latter will apply more if the size of the group allows a more interactive approach to lectures.

- Seminars/tutorials

The programme estimates a preparation time for a fortnightly tutorial of nine hours. Much time will be taken acquiring experience of research and of familiarisation with legal method, but a high standard is expected, therefore on alternate weeks clinics will be held for students seeking additional help/clarification of seminar issues.

Preparation tasks include working individually, and in pairs or small groups. Students will be given tutorial sheets before tutorials which will require students to describe relevant areas of law, or more commonly, set problems with a legal element for discussion and solution. Additional material may be provided in the tutorial.

Directed reading, internet sources and sometimes videos will be suggested.

Students are expected to make full use of their independent learning time and reflect critically upon the subject, and develop their own ideas.

### **Reading Strategy**

The module leader will ensure that students gain access to all materials through the recommendation of primary texts, additional reading lists of seminal articles (to be digitised and placed on Blackboard), additional teaching/learning materials (either available on the WWW or posted on Blackboard).

All such information will be provided in 'Course Programme', distributed to all students at the beginning of the academic year, whilst additional training will also be given throughout the year in how to access Blackboard and other relevant web-sites.

### ***Indicative Reading List***

Indicative reading will be given to the students at the start of each academic year and will be reviewed as appropriate.

## Assessment strategy

- Component A – There will be two equally weighted examinations, the first in the January assessment period, based on the first term work; the second in the Summer assessment period based on the second term work. Students must obtain at least 35% in each part, with an overall mark of 40%
- Component B - The students have the opportunity to attempt two pieces of coursework. The first based on the content of the first term. The second based on the content of the second term. The better of the two marks is carried forward representing 30% of the final module mark.

### Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only)

A: 70% B: 30%

### Component A2 is the final assessment

#### ATTEMPT 1

#### First Assessment Opportunity

##### Component A

##### Description of each element

1. Closed book exam (1.5 hours) January
2. Closed book exam (1.5 hours) May

##### Element weighting

50%  
50%

##### Component B

##### Description of each element

- 1 Essay / problem question (2000 words)
- 2 Essay / problem question (2000 words)

##### Element weighting

The better mark of Components B1 and B2 counts as the Component B mark

100%

### Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is/is not required)

#### Component A

##### Description of each element

1. Closed book exam (3 hours)

##### Element weighting

100%

#### Component B

##### Description of each element

- 1 Essay / problem question (2000 words)
- 2 Essay / problem question (2000 words)

##### Element weighting

The better mark of Components B1 and B2 counts as the Component B mark

100%

### SECOND (OR SUBSEQUENT) ATTEMPT: Attendance at taught classes is/ is not required.