



Module Specification

Criminal Law

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Criminal Law

Module code: UJUTD3-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law Undergraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The syllabus for this module will focus on providing students with knowledge and understanding of the criminal law, together with the context in which the criminal law operates. The subject content is foundational and will provide

students with an understanding of the inter-relationship of statute and case law in the development of the criminal law.

Outline syllabus: The precise content may vary from year to year (based on contemporary developments) but the following is an indicative list of areas that may be covered:

Introduction to criminal law, elements of the criminal justice system and why certain activities are criminalised.

The elements of a crime, the nature of actus reus, omissions and causation.

The notion of culpability, the importance of mens rea and the nature of different states of mind such as intention, recklessness and negligence.

The law relating to offences against the person, to include fatal and non-fatal offences. Covering murder, voluntary and involuntary manslaughter and specific partial defences such as diminished responsibility and loss of control.

General defences such as duress, necessity, mistake and self-defence.
Issues of capacity & incapacity such as intoxication, insanity and automatism.

Sexual offences and the role of consent.

Property offences such as theft, robbery and burglary.

Parties to a crime, secondary participation and inchoate offences.

In relation to the above topics the approach will be to examine the current law, consider recent developments, assess any proposals for reform and identify some of the theoretical underpinnings of the current legal approach.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The teaching and learning methods used on this module will be by way of weekly lectures and workshops that average at 3 hours per week.

Lectures will introduce students to the various criminal law subject areas and the workshops will provide the students with opportunities to explore, discuss and examine some of those subject areas in greater depth. There is an expectation that students will independently undertake reading and preparation work for each of the workshops.

Within the module, semester 1 workshops focus on skills relating to understanding and answering problem questions, whereas semester 2 workshops focus on research skills and essay writing. This is in order to provide the students with help and guidance and a safe environment to discuss, practice and hone skills that they need to develop, in readiness for the assessments at the end of each semester.

In addition to above, lectures and workshops will also provide students with opportunities to:

Apply the knowledge that they have gained via lectures and wider reading to problem solving and making legal arguments.

Learn to interpret, evaluate and analyse primary and secondary sources of criminal law in order to support legal arguments.

Develop their legal reasoning skills in relation to the criminal law.

Discuss and debate relevant legal issues and their impact within the criminal law.

Understand the nature of offences and defences within the criminal law.

Develop written and oral communication skills.

Analyse and evaluate the social, political and moral context of the criminal law.

Develop the ability to research relevant and appropriate material to support legal arguments.

Develop an ability to work within groups.

Develop an ability to prepare work and carry out required reading.

Where possible, students will be supported in their learning by the use of electronic resources such as online MCQ tests, quizzes and lecture capture, in order to ensure engagement and understanding of the various subject areas.

Scheduled learning includes lectures and workshops. It is anticipated that each student will receive/attend approximately 68 hours of scheduled learning.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. It is anticipated that in addition to scheduled learning, each student will also spend approximately 232 hours on independent learning.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate subject knowledge of major concepts, values and principles of the English criminal legal system and be able to apply that knowledge to a range of different contexts such as problem solving, essay writing, research and other assessed work

MO2 Understand the importance of primary and secondary sources of law and be developing an understanding of their use, including contextual materials, to support the making of legal arguments. arguments.

MO3 Communicate effectively in a written format, using appropriate legal terminology for the audience and making use of relevant data derived from primary sources when necessary.

MO4 Identify and critically analyse relevant materials and information, evaluating legal arguments and material drawn from a range of appropriate sources.

MO5 Conduct searches efficiently and effectively and access appropriate legal and contextual materials using electronic and non-electronic systems in order to undertake research activities (appropriate to level 1) to produce a piece of work that is supported by appropriate materials and a fully referenced bibliography.

MO6 Develop the ability to work independently to accomplish a defined outcome and demonstrating a capacity to reflect upon their own experience in order to formulate appropriate strategies for future progress.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujutd3-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujutd3-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The criminal law assessments will provide students with an opportunity to begin to develop their oral communication skills, through an oral presentation, and to develop academic writing skills through creation of an article written as if for submission to a student law journal.

Presentation (35%) Recorded oral submission based on presentation of law in context of assessment of the merits of a legal case, supported by a short written supplement.

Portfolio (65%) comprising journal article written for student journal, and evidence of

their process in preparing it (e.g. literature review, plan and reflective piece).

The assessments will be fully supported within the module teaching and learning strategy, with informal formative opportunities available for both submissions.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: A recorded oral presentation based on an issue of law in context, supported by a short written supplement.

Weighting: 35 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: A portfolio evidencing students' work in preparing a journal article for a student journal.

Weighting: 65 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Presentation (Resit)

Description: A recorded oral presentation based on an issue of law in context, supported by a short written supplement.

Weighting: 35 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: A portfolio evidencing students' work in preparing a journal article for a student journal.

Weighting: 65 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Law with Criminology [Frenchay] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology with Law [Frenchay] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2024-25

Law with Business [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law [Villa] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [UCW] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law with Business {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23