



Module Specification

Criminal Law

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Criminal Law

Module code: UJUULF-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: The module will examine the fundamental principles of criminal law, with a focus on the inter-relationship of statute and case law, encompassing offences and defences.

The module will be delivered as a separate module, but presented programmatically together with Public Law as Public Law.

It will be linked to the Student Lawyer Project, where students will engage in project work involving external engagement as well as personal and professional development activities..

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module will examine the fundamental principles of criminal law, with a focus on the inter-relationship of statute and case law, encompassing offences and defences, with application of the law to a diverse range of practical situations developing the skills of research, critical analysis, evaluation and application.

The module has been designed to complement the Public Law module. The two modules , whilst separate, will be taught as different aspects of Public Law, reflecting the programmatic approach to delivery within the programme.

The module is connected to the Student Lawyer Project, which will be delivered programmatically across the year. Through projects students will extend their academic studies into wider exploration of legal themes, external engagement, and ongoing reflection on their own personal and professional development with the aim of supporting their wider development across their individual student journey.

Outline syllabus: The indicative syllabus for this module includes:

- An introduction to the criminal law and the criminal justice system
- The elements of a crime
- The nature of actus reus, omissions and causation
- The nature of mens rea and notions of culpability
- Offences against the person
- Property and dishonesty offences
- Inchoate offences
- Parties to a crime
- Capacity
- Defences

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The learning on this module will take place through a variety of modes including directed independent learning, self-directed learning, and group activities. Students will need to adopt a proactive approach to the module and engage with the full offer of learning opportunities to ensure successful achievement of the learning outcomes.

Directed independent learning includes engaging with resources such as recorded lectures, Blackboard self-assessment tests, Mentimeter, videos and reading as well as guided activities for example preparing notes, case studies and worksheets. Self-directed learning includes activities such as reading, note-taking, research, and exploring resources. There is also an expectation that students will self-assess their own learning needs and make use of the additional support available via the Learning Hub. Group activities may include discussions, legal debate, collaborative working, and peer learning.

The group activities and directed learning form an essential part in providing students with the knowledge and skills required on the criminal law module. The module has been carefully designed to ensure that students are fully supported on their journey through this transition year, in order to achieve successful completion of the module.

Through the Student Lawyer Project students will engage in project work which will further support their development of independent learning skills; research; team work; time management; presentation skills and the capacity for effective reflection on their learning.

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

MO1 Demonstrate subject knowledge and a basic understanding of the key theories, concepts and values, principles and rules of the English criminal legal system.

MO2 Understand the importance of primary and secondary sources of law within the criminal law and source information from a guided range of primary and secondary data.

MO3 Communicate effectively the results of their study and work, both in writing or orally, accurately with structured and coherent arguments; using appropriate criminal law terminology.

MO4 Recognise, respect and value diversity of experience and the perspectives of others, and demonstrate an understanding of the principles and values of law, justice, and legal ethics.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessments have been designed to complement the assessments in the Public Law module.

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.

A proportion of this module's mark will come from the Student Lawyer Project.

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, MO3

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, MO4

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, MO4

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, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

Law [Villa] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [FTU] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [BIBM] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [FTU] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [Villa] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

Law [BIBM] LLB (Hons) 2024-25

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