



University of the
West of England

ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Family Law (BPTC)					
Module Code	UJXUSJ-10-M		Level		Version	1.1
UWE Credit Rating	10	ECTS Credit Rating	5	WBL module?		No
Owning Faculty	Business and Law		Field	Law non modular		
Department	Law: BILP		Module Type	Professional Practice		
Contributes towards	BPTC Course					
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	N/A		
First CAP Approval Date	28/4/2010		Valid from			
Revision CAP Approval Date	1 June 2016		Revised with effect from	September 2016		

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare a case effectively, understanding the relevant law, facts and principles, also observing the rules of professional conduct and the planning of the advocacy task in question. • demonstrate intermediate advocacy skills in a range of family law scenarios, in a range of hearings. • prepare and deliver as appropriate each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an opening speech; b. a closing speech; c. a skeleton argument d. chronologies, schedules and other supporting documentation. • examine, cross-examine and re-examine witnesses.
Syllabus Outline	<p>Small group sessions (SGS) are employed on both the full time course and also on the part time course where held, are to provide workshop / seminar type opportunities for the students to gain a practical understanding and experience of family dispute resolution through scenario-based methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use of individual and overarching case studies, the latter presented in the form of a typical barristers brief to which additional sections are added e.g. conference notes as the course develops

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sessions organised as mini hearings; • sessions featuring conferencing exercises; <p>The subjects covered in the Small Group Sessions will vary very slightly depending on the interests and specialisations of the staff delivering the module and also to ensure that the topic chosen for the assessment is covered in sufficient depth. However the following will always be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children Act 1989 – particularly Private Child matters; • Financial Relief • Cohabitation
Contact Hours	All students will attend a 2 hr LGS and 5 x 3.5 hr SGS – Total 19.5 hours of contact time with the teaching staff. In addition they will attend for a Practice assessment lasting 0.5 hrs. It is anticipated that preparation for the SGS will take between 30-50 hours per student.
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>The Family Law Option is taught over 1 x LGS and 5 x face to face 'SGS' sessions.</p> <p>The students learn Family Law skills through their application of knowledge gained from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directed self-study on the statutes, rules, procedure and case law • handouts provided by the subject tutor, • practical exercises in the small group sessions and tutor led in class feedback with an element of peer review. The practical exercises include fact analysis, conferencing and advocacy. • tutor led written and oral feedback (incorporated in SGSs), • self and peer review (incorporated into SGSs), • a practice assessment. <p>Students are also expected to engage in independent learning including 30-50 hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, hearing preparation and completion.</p>
Reading Strategy	All students will be issued with their own copy of a practitioner style Textbook and instructed to consult other reference sources as appropriate.
Indicative Reading List	<p>A balanced selection which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Law School BPTC Family Law in Practice Manual (OUP) • A Practical Approach to Family Law; Bond, Bridge, Black et al (OUP) or similar • A range of the major Practitioner Texts used in Family Law • Law Reports

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	<p>Strategy:</p> <p>The strategy employed will be based on what the students have previously learned in Civil Advocacy. A similar mark scheme will be employed necessitating the prior completion and submission of relevant paperwork e.g. a skeleton argument and a</p>
---------------------	---

	<p>submission in the context of a family law hearing. It will therefore be relevant to practice and wider legal employability.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>The assessment will be based on a typical family law scenario whereby the student receives a brief and bundle in advance and is required to prepare for a hearing. A date/time deadline will be set for prior submission of skeleton arguments etc replicating the reality of practice. This will be followed a day or two later by attending for live advocacy before a Judge.</p>
--	--

% weighting between components A and B	A:	B:
	100%	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Skeleton Argument	10%	
2. live advocacy exercise	90%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1.		

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Skeleton Argument	10%
2. live advocacy exercise	90%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1.	
If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	