



## **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:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business & Law

**Department:** FBL Dept of Law

**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 programatically 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.

This module is also linked to the Student Lawyer Project, which will be delivered programmatically across the year. Students will engage in two project weeks, one in each teaching semester. Through the 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.

**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 = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](http://readinglists.uwe.ac.uk) via the following link

## **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).

Students' personal and professional development will be demonstrated through contribution to the reflective piece relating to the Student Lawyer Project.

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

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, MO3

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

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

A proportion of the marks for this assessment will be directly based on students' contributions to the programmatic Student Lawyer Project.

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

**Portfolio (Resit)**

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

A proportion of the marks for this assessment will be directly based on students' contributions to the programmatic Student Lawyer Project.

Weighting: 65 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Law [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law [Villa] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

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