

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN BUSINESS		
MODULE CODE	AC1511 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 CREDITS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

To introduce non-law students to the basic rules, principles, and methods, as well as outlining the basic sources, methods of interpretation, and institutions, of the English Legal System as a basis for the study of business. Furthermore, the module aims to encourage students to recognise the application of these legal principles with reference to hypothetical legal scenarios.

MODULE CONTENT

- introduce students to the English Legal System – its structure, institutions, rules, methods and principles;
- explain the nature and functions of the civil and criminal court system;
- explain how law is made with particular emphasis on judicial precedent and the hierarchy of courts;
- explore the variety of common law, statutory and European methods of law making;
- explain the components of a valid contract-in-law through an assessment of the legal principles of agreement, consideration and intention to create legal relations;
- distinguish the main terms of contract;
- explain how common law and statute controls exclusion clauses work and assess why this needs to be done;
- discuss the variety of ways in which contractual duties can be discharged by performance, agreement, variation, and frustration and highlight their remedial effects;
- assess the main types of common law and equitable remedies available for a breach of contract;
- introduce the basic procedural elements for an action in the tort of negligence viz, duty of care, causation and remoteness of damage; assess the main legal forms for creating and facilitating business such as partnerships, companies and corporations;
- introduce the basic principles concerning the formation of an employment contract. The effects of the termination of such a contract will then be explored with reference to unfair dismissal, wrongful dismissal and redundancy.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1.	Describe key aspects of the English legal System.
2.	Explain the ingredients needed to make a valid contract under English law.
3.	Demonstrate understanding of the elements needed to make a claim in negligence in Tort.
4.	Critique the different forms of business organisations.

TEACHING METHODS

The module will be delivered via lectures and seminars.

The purpose of lectures is to introduce a topic, define its scope and illustrate the principles of law concerned through case analysis and exposition as well as the use of illustrative examples. The lecture equips students with a broad sketch of the main issues of pertaining to a topic, which provides a framework to develop on, and answer seminar questions prior to the seminar. Further, a discussion of past examination questions is a must upon the completion of each legal topic, enabling students to understand how the legal principles can be applied to given legal situations.

The aim of seminars is to demonstrate preparation and understanding of a topic through guided reading, preparation of set questions, and discussion and argument with peers in small group situations. Students are encouraged to lead discussions to develop their ability to contribute confidently to class discussions

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a coursework test (30%) and a written examination (70%).