

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	THINKING AND ARGUING LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW1009 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- To outline, evaluate and apply approaches to jurisprudence, doctrinal (Black Letter), social-legal, comparative and historical.
- Explain how law and fact are distinguished in legal reasoning
- Evaluate the limits of doctrinal reasoning through the application of a range of approaches to jurisprudential enquiry
- Outline a range of interpretative research methods for investigating legal reasoning and framing research questions
- Design and execute an independent research project from one of the approaches to framing law outlined in the syllabus and reflect upon the strengths, weaknesses and limits of the approach to thinking and arguing law

MODULE CONTENT

- What is law?
- The law / fact distinction in general and with respect to a specific case study
- The relationship between law and morality, law and politics and law and justice
- Different legal jurisprudence including traditional black letter, social-legal, comparative and historical approaches
- Legal writing and rhetoric

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Describe and distinguish approaches to framing and investigating legal issue and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the approach chosen for the case study investigation
 2. Explain and identify a legal argument from the perspective of one approach to legal reasoning and analysis learnt on the module
 3. Write coherent legal arguments which demonstrate evidence of argument and counter-argument leading to balanced conclusions
 4. Produce an academically coherent and correctly cited, using the OSCOLA protocol, piece of legal research using appropriate research techniques and methods, including library and on-line legal data-bases to retrieve and locate information
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TEACHING METHODS

The module is delivered by means of weekly lectures and seminars. Seminar questions usually deal with miniature case studies covering the subject matter of the previous lecture. In this way, students gain experience of the practical applications of the theory of law. Students are expected to prepare the case study prior to the seminar and to be prepared to participate in seminar discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through two assignments.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English