

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	THINKING AND ARGUING LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW1029 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

The module aims are:

- To introduce students to philosophical and theoretical aspects of legal thought, complementing their practical skills and knowledge.
- To outline, evaluate and apply approaches to jurisprudence, doctrinal (Black Letter), social-legal, comparative and historical.
- To outline, evaluate and apply positivist and natural law theories
- 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

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

What is law? 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 issues 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

TEACHING METHODS

The primary objective of the lectures is to provide an outline of the subject matter and a framework for its understanding which students can use as a base for their independent study directed to the requirements of the seminars. This session will also include within it, in addition to traditional lecture delivery, small group discussions feeding into reporting back to whole groups, live quiz sessions and other interactive exercises, guest lecturers, relevant video or other pre-recorded material plus discussion and other learning activities as appropriate.

Seminars (small group tutorials) take place fortnightly. The students build upon their understanding gained in the lecture session by reading specified cases, articles and appropriate textbooks in preparation for the seminars. The aims and learning outcomes of each individual seminar are clearly set out and students are encouraged to consider the short, self-help questions before talking the essay and problem question set for the group discussion.

Both essays assist in the development of written communication skills and skills of analysis. They will give the student valuable individual feedback as to the degree of understanding of the course, especially how the various areas of law inter-relate. The student will also receive valuable guidance as to how his or her essay writing skills can be improved.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through two Written Assignments.