

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	AN INTRODUCTION TO WAR CRIMES TRIALS		
MODULE CODE	LW1032(L4)	CREDIT VALUE	10 UK CREDITS / 5 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This module is intended to introduce students to current debates relating to modern war crimes trials and the legal reactions to the mass violation of human rights through genocide for example. It aims to illustrate the range of ways in international and domestic law has responded to war crimes and related atrocities, including trials and various administrative hearings such as truth and reconciliation procedures.

MODULE CONTENT

The material to be covered is as follows:

- The origins of war crimes trials.
- Legal definitions of war crimes
- The Nuremberg innovations such as crimes against humanity and crimes against the peace and organisation liability)
- Investigating war criminality including the role of intelligence officials
- Problems with plea bargaining and immunity deals.
- The use of film evidence in the Eichmann and Nuremberg trials. The future, and further attempts to combat terrorism (such as, at the time of writing, to increase the pre-charge detention powers to 42 days in the Counter-Terrorism Bill 2007)
- Recent develops in the war crimes trials e.g. Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosovic

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.
2.	Understand key concepts within the area of war crimes trials
3.	Evaluate the clash between different human rights values in for example the criminalisation of incitement to genocide.
4.	Evaluate the appropriateness of how war crimes trials are currently organised.

TEACHING METHODS

The module will utilise a variety of learning strategies including the showing of films of actual trials designed to place the student and his or her experience at the centre of the learning process. The module will encourage student learning by participation and independent research into war crimes trials as well as developing analytical skills.

The teaching scheme will initially introduce students to the issues as outlined in the module content above, then the remainder of the workshops will take the form of interactive sessions making use of relevant documents, case studies such as that of Guido Zimmer, videos and discussion points to enhance the student's understanding of relevant issues.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a presentation (summary of an academic article on war crimes trials) and a workshop performance (individual participation in eight substantive workshops).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English