

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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| MODULE TITLE | COMPARATIVE LAW | | |
| MODULE CODE | LW1120(L4) | CREDIT VALUE | 20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS |
| SCHOOL | SCHOOL OF LAW | | |
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MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- Examine the purposes and methods of comparative law
- Introduce a range of legal families/traditions
- Critique the “legal families” approach to classification of legal systems and consider the alternatives
- Illustrate the process of comparison by reference to case studies
- Consider how far comparative law is useful in harmonisation/unification projects

MODULE CONTENT

- Comparative law or comparative legal culture
- Purposes of comparison: objectivity, critique, “better law”, harmonisation
- Methods of comparison: distinctively legal, or interdisciplinary?
- Legal families: including common law, civil law and Islamic law
- Case studies: indicative examples include - civil process and the role of the judge; marriage and divorce in common law and Islamic law; topics in contract and tort
- Legal Transplants and comparative law in practice

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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| 1. | Explain the contribution of comparative law to understanding law and legal culture |
| 2. | Assess the strengths and weakness of different methodological approaches |
| 3. | Identify and explain significant differences between some of the main world legal systems |
| 4. | Compare in detail two areas of law |
| 5. | Discuss how far those comparisons may be useful in framing laws for an era of globalisation |

TEACHING METHODS

The module will be taught in a lecture/seminar format.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a presentation and a written assignment.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English