

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	COMPARATIVE LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW1120 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

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

Indicative syllabus 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

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

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 and discuss the use of such comparisons in framing laws in a globalised era

TEACHING METHODS

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through two Written Assignments.