

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	LEGAL METHOD		
MODULE CODE	LW1223 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

The module seeks to introduce students to:

1. The sources of law.
2. The principles of professional ethics.
3. The legal system of England and Wales, its constituent institutions and processes, and the broader legal and political context within which they operate.
4. The skills necessary for the effective study of law.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

The module will introduce students to:

- Finding the law: to include training in use of a range of legal resources and databases; and search strategies
- Understanding the law: to include consideration of a range of sources of law including statutes and case law; introduction to legal vocabulary; navigating sources of law; the doctrine of judicial precedent; and statutory interpretation
- Writing about the law: to include approaches to problem solving and essay writing in the context of academic law; and the use and citation of legal authority (avoiding plagiarism)
- Applying the law during a moot
- Speaking about the law: to build confidence in speaking; basic presentation skills; preparation of legal argument; and mooting
- Making law: the institutions and procedures involved
- Professional ethics
- The Legal Profession and Legal Services: structure and regulation of the profession; legal roles within the profession; and delivery of legal services
- The Judiciary: role and profile; and evaluation of the judiciary
- Criminal Process: the suspect and the police, classification of offences and the criminal court structure; Trial by Jury; role of the Crown Prosecution Service; and Miscarriages of Justice
- Civil Process: structure of the Courts exercising Civil Jurisdiction; Civil Procedure Rules, including allocation of cases and case management; impact of reforms on the civil process
- Alternative Dispute Resolution: Introduction to Arbitration, Tribunals, Mediation and other types of ADR

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Identify relevant sources of law and explain the role of personnel, institutions, systems and/or process in the current English legal system.
2. Understand professional ethics.
3. Understand how to apply sources of law and the principles of professional ethics, for example during a moot.
4. Identify strategies and access support to develop his or her own skills, such as those relating to research, expression, communication and those associated with advancing an argument in a coherent, evidenced and well-structured manner.

TEACHING METHODS

Campus delivery will be organised around lectures and workshops. Lectures will introduce new legal ideas and concepts and build an outline of the structure of legal rules and principles. Further reading of cases and statutes in secondary and primary legal sources will consolidate and expand the breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding. Small group workshops will allow students to test their level and range of understanding and reflect formatively on areas of strength and weakness. Workshops will also develop and support general legal techniques and skills in support of legal reading, analysis, writing, drafting and note taking, legal problem solving through IRAC type techniques, as well as test formative knowledge and understanding. Summative assessment will focus on the accuracy of synoptic knowledge across the whole syllabus and evaluate legal problem solving skills and the ability to create structured legal arguments that draw reasoned conclusions through factual scenarios that raise key legal issues from the syllabus. Module support materials (lecture outlines lecture recordings, Office Mix presentations, Power-points slides, workshop questions, cases, case materials, technique and skills materials, exemplar assessments) will be located on a dedicated module virtual learning environment, which will also be used as the repository for assessment submission, student communication, and e-discussion boards.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through one Workbook and one Moot.