

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Family Law		
MODULE CODE	LW2007 (L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- Explain the substantive principles of family law and the policy underlying those principles
- Outline the law governing family relationships
- Examine the substantive legal provisions applicable to marriage and cohabitation
- Examine the provisions which regulate the relationship between adults and the state
- Identify deficiencies in existing provisions and evaluate proposed changes
- Develop skills of analysis, reasoning, oral and written communication in the context of family law through practical application of the relevant provisions.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will consider:

- The family- definition and legal regulation: the nature and role of the law re domestic partnerships; the marriage contract and civil partnerships; the cohabiting couple (heterosexual and same-sex); their central position: marital and non-marital
- The family in crisis : domestic violence: forced marriage and remedies;
- Family breakdown: dissolution of marriage: financial provision and property adjustment for spouses; the rights of cohabitantes re finance and property on breakdown of relationships.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Explain the key principles of family law
2. Outline the legal and social context of the family and the role of the law in domestic partnerships.
3. Explain the legal provisions governing domestic relationships and the relationship between adults and the state
4. Highlight the policies underlying the relevant statutory provisions and the effect on existing provisions of changes in society's needs, expectations and attitudes
5. Select and apply relevant law to factual situations and draw reasoned conclusions as to likely legal or other outcomes
6. Present reasoned and well-structured arguments.

TEACHING METHODS

The module will utilise a variety of learning strategies designed to place the student at the centre of the learning process. The module will encourage student learning by participation and independent research as well as enhancing problem solving and analytical skills.

Large group sessions will introduce the student to the philosophy and fundamental principles of law relevant to the subject and will provide the basic framework within which further learning by private study and research can take place

A module handbook will be provided containing lecture outlines indicating aims and learning outcomes for each session, seminar materials and further recommended reading.

Seminars will take the form of interactive sessions using case studies and discussion topics and will enable students to demonstrate understanding of and ability to apply relevant material. They will focus on areas of debate and encourage students to appreciate alternative views and to reach thoughtful and critical conclusions. There will be an opportunity to negotiate a financial settlement.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an essay (75%) and an Essay plan discussion (25%).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English