

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	CYPRUS PUBLIC LAW AND SYSTEM		
MODULE CODE	LW2114(L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This module is designed to introduce students to the constitutional system of government in Cyprus (legislature, executive and judiciary). To explain the restraints on the exercise of governmental powers. Matters relating to the administration of government shall also be considered – including the concept of judicial review of administrative action, the concept of a public authority, locus standi, natural justice and the functions of the ombudsman. The module will also examine the court structure (including an introduction to civil and criminal procedure) and the legal profession in Cyprus (legal professional responsibility and privilege, including study of the Advocates Law).

MODULE CONTENT

1. The constitutional history of Cyprus. The Zurich and London Agreements. The bi-communal character of the Constitution. The Cypriot doctrine of necessity. Sources of Cypriot constitutional law and the impact of European Union membership. Structures and institutions of government. The exercise of executive power. The protection of fundamental rights: the European Convention on Human Rights. The independent institutions of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. The court hierarchy. Alternative Dispute Resolution and arbitration. The judiciary (including: independence, immunity, appointment and removal). The legal profession. The Office of the Attorney-General. The appeals system.
3. The nature and scope of administrative law. Administrative act, public authorities. Legitimate interest for filing a recourse. Natural Justice. Exercise of discretionary power. Revocation of administrative acts. The Ombudsman.
4. The Advocates Law. Disciplinary action. Professional privilege. Conflict of interest, contempt of court.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Identify the commonalities between the Constitution of 1960 and any future constitutional settlement.
2.	Examine the implications of Cyprus' membership of the European Union upon governmental institutions.
3.	Outline alternative means of resolving legal disputes beyond the traditional court system.
4.	Discuss the importance of professional legal ethics in a modern society founded upon the rule of law.
5.	Introduce the mechanisms whereby the exercise of governmental authority may be challenged.
6.	Outline the hierarchical nature of the court system in Cyprus, including the jurisdiction of specialist courts and tribunals.
7.	Effectively identify, find and use relevant sources of Cypriot law using both traditional and online resources in written and oral works

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 developing problem solving and analytical skills.

A module handbook will be compiled consisting of lecture outlines and further recommended reading.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The module is assessed through coursework (workbook) and a written assignment.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English (significant emphasis is placed on the Greek terminology)