

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	CRIMINAL LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW2502(L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

To introduce students to the primary concepts of criminal responsibility and by reference to specific offences, to further develop the skills and knowledge base necessary to the understanding of criminal law and to enable students to critically assess the current state of criminal law and to evaluate proposals for reform.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will consider:

- Elements of a crime – Actus Reus and Mens Rea
- Criminal damage
- Non-fatal offences against the person
- Murder: manslaughter
- General defences
- Inchoates and Accessories
- Introduction to Offences of Dishonesty

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Demonstrate a sound understanding of the areas of substantive law covered in this module
2.	Apply knowledge of the criminal law principles to hypothetical factual scenarios
3.	Analyse and interpret criminal law statutes and cases
4.	Evaluate the legal and moral problems arising from the application and development of contemporary problems in criminal law
5.	Evaluate and assess proposals for reform of the criminal law

TEACHING METHODS

A lecture session takes place each week, the primary object of which is to provide an outline of the subject matter and a framework for its understanding which students can use as a base for their independent study directed to the requirements of the seminars. This session will also include within it, in addition to traditional lecture delivery, small group discussions feeding into reporting back to whole groups, live quiz sessions and other interactive exercises, guest lecturers, relevant video or other pre-recorded material plus discussion and other learning activities and revision exercises as appropriate. Seminars (small group tutorials) take place fortnightly. The students build upon their understanding gained in the lecture session by reading specified cases, articles and appropriate textbooks

in preparation for the seminars. The aims and learning outcomes of each individual seminar are clearly set out and students are encouraged to consider the short, self-help questions before talking the essay and problem question set for the group discussion.

The formative essay assists in the development of written communication skills and skills of analysis and problem solving and consist of a fictional scenario in relation to which the student will demonstrate his or her ability to identify the legal issues to which the scenario gives rise and apply the relevant law to those issues. The essay will give the student valuable individual feedback as to the degree of understanding of the course to date, especially how the various areas of law inter-relate. The student will also receive valuable guidance as to how his or her essay writing skills can be improved. The unseen examination will, by means of problem questions, require the student to demonstrate the ability to analyse factual situations and apply the law to them in a time constrained environment and where appropriate to comment on any defects or difficulties revealed by their analysis. The inclusion of essay questions on the examination paper allows students the opportunity to evidence their ability for a greater degree of evaluation and critical analysis of a given topic. Students are given guidance and advice as to how to prepare for the unseen examination in the revision workshops and are also encouraged to attempt previous questions from past papers and submit their own written answers upon which tutors can comment.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an examination and a written assignment.