

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	MEDICINE AND THE LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW3007 (L6)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

The module outlines the law as it applies to the complex relationship between doctors and patients, and by using statutory provisions and legal judgements, analyse the extent and limitations of the law in this context. Further, it aims to compare and analyse the legal rules applicable in key contextual areas and the policy underlying those rules. Some comparisons will be made with other jurisdictions facing the same problems and dilemmas so that the law can be critically analysed and evaluated in both a European and international perspective.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will cover:

- Assisted reproductive technology
- Abortion
- Surrogacy
- Contraception
- Death and medical futility
- Euthanasia
- Organ ownership and retrieval
- Confidentiality
- Access to health records
- Medical negligence
- Professional regulation
- Consent
- Information disclosure

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Explain and apply key legal principles which regulate the complex relationship of the doctor and patient
 2. Analyse statutory provisions and legal judgements in this jurisdiction and others
 3. Analyse the impact of issues of policy within which the law operates in this area
 4. Distinguish between personal and collective responsibility and how the law seeks to measure these against moral standards in changing and complex medical situations
 5. Apply legal principles to factual scenarios, draw reasoned conclusions and propose legally coherent outcomes
 6. Demonstrate the further development of the skills of expression, research and the use of IT for information retrieval
 7. Form a critical judgement on areas of the law that are uncertain and/or open to interpretation
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TEACHING METHODS

The course is taught by means of a weekly lecture. The primary object of the lectures 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 seminar. The session will also include, 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 guidance on how to prepare the written coursework.

The lectures are supplemented by 8 one-hour seminars throughout the academic year. The students build upon their understanding gained in the lecture session by reading specified cases, articles, reports and appropriate textbooks in preparation for the seminars. The aims and learning outcomes of each individual seminar are clearly set out and students tackle essay and problem questions during the group discussion.

Seminar performance will test the student's level of preparation, depth of understanding of the relevant material and their ability to evaluate it and to participate in group discussions as explained in detail in the Law School's published criteria which are included in the module handbook. This encourages the development of not only academic and research skills but also the student's oral communication skills. The assessed case study assist in the development of written communication skills and skills of analysis. The assessed poster presentation fosters team work, and good research, analytical and presentation skills.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a poster presentation and a case study.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English