

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Criminal Evidence		
MODULE CODE	LW3020 (L6)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- Examine the fundamental principles of the law of evidence and to assess a series of contemporary issues in the modern law.
- Outline and explain the special position of the accused and the evaluate the extent to which the rules should protect the accused.
- Explain and evaluate key concepts such as burden of proof, standard of proof, witness competency, rules of trial, the main exclusionary rules (character, hearsay and opinion)

MODULE CONTENT

This module will consider:

- General principles of the law of evidence
- Burden and standard of proof
- Witnesses
- Examination-in-chief
- Cross-examination and beyond
- Suspect evidence, eg caution warnings, identification evidence
- Vulnerable witnesses, eg cross-examination in rape cases
- Evidence of bad and good character
- Rule against hearsay in criminal cases and the major exceptions to the rule
- Confessions and illegally obtained evidence
- Opinion evidence

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Explain and define main legal principles which comprise the English law of evidence
2. Evaluate types of evidence and consider whether or how the evidence may be adduced in court proceedings
3. Evaluate critically the role of the law of evidence within criminal proceedings
4. Evaluate the coherence of the body of legal rules relating to evidence
5. Evaluate critically the existing law and suggest proposals for reform.

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.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a Mock Trial (25%) and a Multiple Choice and Short Answer Questions Examination (75%).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English