Module Descriptor

Title	Scottish Criminal Law		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	
Code	CRIM07004	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	C Wilson		

Summary of Module

This module will provide students with information and allow them to analyse a number of the important fundamental principles and concepts that underpin the criminal law in Scotland. These will include:

• Principles used when identifying whether or not an action may attract criminal liability, including the legal concepts of mens rea and actus reus

• Categories of crime including mala in se and mala prohibita, and the concept of strict liability

• Defences to accusations of criminal liability

• Legal doctrines such as causation, art and part liability, Moorov, and Distress

• A range of specific categories of criminal offence including crimes against the person, crimes against property, crimes against public order, and crimes against justice

There will be a combination of standard lectures and seminars covering theoretical and practical issues, which will lead to the final assessment which involves working in groups to simulate a real legal team with the submission of a skeleton argument and bundle two weeks in advance of then carrying out a 'Moot' (a mock court case) in groups of either 4 or 5 students, allowing students to consider and put into practice a range of theoretical and professional practice concepts taught throughout the module. For all of the above, the VLE will be utilised both to provide information and allow interaction for students and staff.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Critically analyse the elements of a crime, the definitions of a specific crimes, the doctrines and principles concerning criminal responsibility and defences, all with reference to relevant legislation and case law.
L2	Apply the knowledge and skills taught in both lectures and seminars to the creation of coherent and relevant legal arguments both formatively and summatively.
L3	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge, understanding of the law and the ability to critically analyse and apply the law.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 7** An overall appreciation of the body of knowledge that constitutes criminal law;
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In practical contexts; In using some of the basic and routine professional skills, techniques, practices and materials associated with criminal law
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7**

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas that are routine to criminal law; Use a range of approaches to address defined and /or routine problems and issues within familiar contexts.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced skills associated with criminal law, for example: Convey complex ideas in well-structured and coherent form; Use a range of forms of communication effectively in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts; Select and use standard ICT applications (such as WESTLAW) to process and obtain a variety of information and data.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined mock activities at a professional relating to the practice of law within the courtroom; Take account of own and others' roles and responsibilities when carrying out and evaluating tasks; Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	38
Independent Study	126
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Jones, TH & Taggart, I (2015) Criminal Law 6th ed., Edinburgh, W Green Gordon, GH & Christie, MGA (2010) The Criminal Law of Scotland 3rd ed., Edinburgh, W Green / SULI
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:** Adherence to the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Social Sciences**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	UG Social Science
Moderator	TBA
External Examiner	
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
This module involves two inter-linked but separate assessments, which requires students to work in groups to formulate a legal argument in response to a details simulated legal scenario. The first element of the assessment is a written submission which requires students to prepare a 'legal bundle' and 'skeleton argument'. The assessment requires

students to draw on their practical and theoretical skills, as well as their academic writing skills to craft a detailed legal argument.
Assessment 2
Assessment 2 – The second element of the module assessment builds on the work developed in assessment one. Students are required to attend an oral 'moot hearing' which simulates a court room environment. Students must argue as either prosecution or defence based on the argument developed in their skeleton argument and, in doing so, consider a range of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills taught throughout the module.
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Group Work	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Assessment	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
new template, no changes	Mar 25	C Wilson