Module Descriptor

Title	Advanced Criminal Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW10022	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Nicholas Burgess		

Summary of Module

Advanced Criminal Law begins with an introduction and revision session covering the basics of Scots criminal law and the Scottish criminal justice system. Thereafter the module is split into two broad parts. Part One covers a series of topics on theoretical principles of criminalisation and substantive criminal offences. Part Two covers broader evidential and procedural rules in the Scottish criminal justice system.

The topics covered may be subject to change year-on-year due to the dynamic nature of this area of law. It is intended that students will be exposed to topical, novel, contested, and potentially sensitive issues relating to criminal law, which will be discussed in an appropriate manner taking into account competing views. As an indication, topics in Part One may include: murder; rape; hate crime; and regulatory offences. Topics in Part Two may include: the presumption of innocence and the right to silence; corroboration; juries and verdicts; prosecutorial discretion; and sentencing.

The course will take a largely theoretical approach, looking at the normative questions of why and how the criminal law/criminal justice system should be framed in a particular way, as well as the principles which underpin its development. It is this theoretical approach, in large part, which distinguishes this course from the largely descriptive Level 7 Criminal Law module. While the course has a Scots law focus, theorising about criminal law transcends jurisdictions so there will be a degree of comparative discussion.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus**[1]	**Hybrid**[2]	**Online**[3]	**Work -Based Learning**[4]
	☒	☐	☐	☐

[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

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	Investigate, analyse and evaluate advanced criminal law and criminal justice concepts
L2	Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire legal information
L3	Analyse problems in terms of theoretical legal concepts and apply legal principles to propose solutions
L4	Engage in discourse on advanced criminal law issues
L5	Distinguish between alternative opinions on the basis of evidence and sound legal reasoning, presented in coherent and logical arguments

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 10** Demonstrate and/or work with: Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of criminal law A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles. Detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more specialisms, some of which is informed by, or at the forefront of, criminal law. Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which criminal law has developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a wide range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with criminal law. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of criminal law. In executing a defined project of research, development or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes. To practise in a range of professional level contexts that include a degree of unpredictability and/or specialism.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10**

	Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex/professional problems and issues. Offer professional insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues. Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with professional issues. Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in criminal law. Make judgements where data/information is limited or comes from a range of sources.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in criminal law, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information about specialised topics to informed audiences. Communicate with peers, senior colleagues and specialists on a professional level. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Exercise autonomy and initiative in professional/equivalent activities. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. Work with others to bring about change, development and/or new thinking. Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

Prerequisites	**Module Code** LAWW07013	**Module Title** Criminal Law
	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)
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24

Independent Study	176
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

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

Unlike other undergraduate courses, there is no definitive list of resources given the topical and changing nature of this module. Instead, current specific reading lists will be given for each seminar. Students will be expected to consult the basic reading before attending class. The following are indicative of some required general resources:

Jeremy Horder, Ashworth's Principles of Criminal Law (Latest edn)

Jonathan Herring, Great Debates in Criminal Law (Latest edn)

Timothy H Jones and Ian Taggart, Criminal Law (Latest edn)

CHW Gane, CN Stoddart and J Chalmers, A Casebook on Scottish Criminal Law (4th edn, 2009)

Gerald H Gordon (James Chalmers and Fiona Leverick (eds)), The Criminal Law of Scotland (vols 1-2, 4th edn, 2017/2023)

James Chalmers, Scottish Evidence Law Essentials (Latest edn)

Eamon Keane and Fraser Davidson (eds), Raitt on Evidence: Principles, Policy and Practice (Latest edn)

(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:

Students are required to attend scheduled teaching sessions and engage with the Virtual Learning Environment.

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	**Accounting Finance Law**
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	Accounting Finance Law
Moderator	N Gokhale
External Examiner	KA Cannon
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
A presentation, worth 40% of the overall mark, in which students are expected to present on a substantive topic covered in the course
Assessment 2
An essay, worth 60% of the final mark, in which students will be expected to complete an analytical essay on a specified question
Assessment 3
N/A
(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**
Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	40	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	60	

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

Change Control

What	When	Who