Module Descriptor

Title	Contemporary Legal Issues 2		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW08024	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	J Wilson		

Summary of Module

This module allows students the opportunity to explore, in depth, one contemporary issue in the law. The module is intended to help students develop legal research, legal writing, and critical thinking skills. The module can be delivered in any term and can be adapted to meet credit deficit to enable students to progress with their studies where otherwise they would have been prevented from doing so. The student will work with a member of staff to design an assessment to meet their particular needs and interests and will work independently, with some limited supervision, to deliver their chosen project.

At SCQF Level 8 the student will be expected to deliver a piece of written work of 2500 words in length.

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 ☐	

[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

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate, by means of written work, knowledge and understanding of an issue current in the law to be agreed with staff
L2	Demonstrate an ability to engage with academic and legal discourse on the chosen subject
L3	Demonstrate an ability to construct a convincing, written, argument paying attention to primary and secondary legal sources
L4	Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire specialist legal information with minimal supervision
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 8** Demonstrate and/or work with: A knowledge of the scope, defining features, and main areas of a Contemporary Legal Issue. Awareness and understanding of some major current issues and specialisms in Law. Awareness and understanding of research and equivalent scholarly/academic processes.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with certain Contemporary Legal Issues, a few of which are advancedand/or complex. In carrying out routine lines of enquiry, development or investigation into professional level problems and issues.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings in certain Contemporary Legal Issues. Use a range of approaches to formulate and critically evaluate evidence-based solutions/responses to defined and/or routine problems and issues.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills associated with certain Contemporary Legal Issues, for example: Convey complex information to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes.

	Use a range of standard ICT applications to process and obtain data. Use and evaluate numerical and graphical data to measure progress and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in the Contemporary Legal Issues 2 Module. Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others within a defined structure. Manage resources within defined areas of work. Take the lead on planning in familiar or defined contexts. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions when carrying out and evaluating tasks. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice. Manage, under guidance, ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

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	4
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	10
Independent Study	186
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: M Salter and J Mason Writing Law Dissertations (2007 Longman) L Webley Legal Writing (4th edition, 2016, Routledge)
(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, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Engagement Panel or other appropriate body, and could prevent student progression, and ultimately successful degree completion.

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. Reasonable accomodation will be made as applicable within the module to both teaching and assessments.
(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 and Law
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	BO Giupponi
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Component 1 – Essay worth 100%
Assessment 2
NA
Assessment 3
NA
(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**
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	0

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

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
NA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	0	0
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
SCQF descriptors amended	21/3/25	Joanna Wilson