Module Descriptor

Title	Contemporary Legal Issues 3		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW09029	**SCQF Level**	Level 9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	N Gokhale		
Summary of Module The purpose of this module is to enable students to develop their critical writing skills ahead of the Dissertation module in Honours year. In addition, students who opt not to enter Honours year will have gained experience in completing a substantial piece of indenpendent written work thus enhancing their employability skills. Students will, following initial discussions with a member of staff, select a legal topic on which to write a 3,000 word critical essay. The choice of essay is largely to be determined by the student and staff input is solely around aiding the student to clarify the topic of their project. Students will then work independently on their essay however support will be available on general writing skills such as structure, clarity of thought and writing etc. Students will be expected to also produce a reflection on their experiences of working independently.			

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	Work independently to produce a substantial piece of written work.
L2	Clearly communicate complex legal arguments in writing appropriate for a variety of audiences.
L3	Critically analyse an autonomously chosen legal topic
L4	Utilise industry standard referencing systems and industry standard databases to find source material
L5	Reflect on experiences of working independently including identifying and addressing challenges faced

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 9** Demonstrate and/or work with: An understanding of the scope and defining features of a chosen area of Scots Law, and an integrated knowledge of its main areas and boundaries. A critical understanding of a range of the principles, principal theories, concepts and terminology of the chosen area of law. Knowledge of one or more specialisms that is informed by forefront developments.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with contemporary legal research. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised and/or advanced. In practising routine methods of enquiry and/or research. To practise in a range of professional level contexts that include a degree of unpredictability.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in a chosen area of Scots Law. Identify and analyse routine professional problems and issues. Draw on a range of sources in making judgements.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in contemporary legal research for example:

	Present or convey, formally and informally, information on standard/mainstream topics in Scots Law to a range of audiences. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work. Interpret, use and evaluate numerical and graphical data to achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in a chosen area of Scots Law. Work, under guidance, with specialist practitioners. Seeking guidance where appropriate, manage 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)
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	168
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	8
Asynchronous Class Activity	12
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: L Webley 'Legal Writing' (Routledge, London, 2016) M Salter and J Mason 'Writing Law Dissertations' (Longman, 2007)

(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:** Attendance at mandatory introduction workshops plus submission of literature review.

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	AFL
Moderator	S White
External Examiner	BO Giupponi
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Critical Essay 100%
Assessment 2
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**
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	12

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

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**