Module Descriptor

Title	Contemporary Legal Issues 4		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW10014	**SCQF Level**	Level 10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dale McFadzean		
Summary of Module This module allows students the opportunity to explore, in depth, one contemporary issue in the law. The module will be delivered in one day conference format whereby each member of the law staff will deliver a presentation on a current issue in law. It is anticipated that the presentations will change each year based on staff members' research and teaching expertise and contemporary debates in law but may include areas such as medical law, internet law, corporate law, public law, family law and human rights. Students then choose which topic they wish to explore in more depth and produce one piece of written work on the topic of their choice. The written work will be 4000 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	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

[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

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate, by means of written work, detailed knowledge and understanding of a contemporary issue in law.
L2	Construct a written critical analysis of a contemporary issue in law engaging with academic and legal discourse.
L3	Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire specialist legal information.
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 10** Demonstrate and/or work with: Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of the contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic. 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, the contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic. Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic have 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 the contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic. In executing a defined project of research, development or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes.
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. Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in the contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic. 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 contemporary legal issues relevant to the chosen topic, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information about specialised topics to informed audiences. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose. Interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Exercise autonomy and initiative in professional/equivalent activities. Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices. Recognise the limits of these codes and seek guidance where appropriate.

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	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:

There are no core texts for this module due to the nature of the module. Indicative reading for each topic being presented will be provided on Aula.
(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:** Student compliance with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure noted above.

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 and Law
Moderator	Mhairi Campbell
External Examiner	Tinashe Masvimbo
Accreditation Details	Not applicable
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Critical essay worth 100% of the mark for this module.
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	0

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%	0 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**