



Module Descriptor

Title	Criminal Law		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	LAWW07013	SCQF Level	7
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	
School	Business and Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator	Nicholas Burgess		
Summary of Module			
This module provides an introduction to Scots criminal law. The module begins with topics covering the general part of the criminal law, i.e.: actus reus/mens rea; causation; omissions liability; art and part liability; strict and vicarious liability; and defences. Thereafter the special part of the criminal law is considered, covering substantive statutory and common law offences including: homicide; non-fatal offences against the person; sexual offences; property and dishonesty offences; public order offences; and offences against justice. Some limited discussion of evidential rules (e.g., corroboration) may also be included.			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ ☐	Hybrid² ☒	Online³ ☐	Work -Based Learning⁴ ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

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

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	Examine the elements of a crime and general principles of criminal law
L2	Examine a range of specific substantive common law and statutory offences in Scots law
L3	Apply the knowledge and skills previously noted to the consideration of case studies and problem questions
L4	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law
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 Demonstrate and/or work with: An overall appreciation of the body of knowledge that constitutes Scots criminal law. Knowledge that is embedded in the main theories, concepts and principles of Scots criminal law. An awareness of the dynamic nature of knowledge and understanding. An understanding of the difference between explanations based on evidence and/or research and other sources, and of the importance of this difference.
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/or materials associated with Scots criminal law. To practise these in both routine and non-routine contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 7 Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas that are routine to Scots 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 Scots 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 to process and obtain a variety of information and data. Use a range of numerical and graphical skills in combination. Use numerical and graphical data to measure progress and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 7 Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities in Scots criminal law. Accept supervision in less familiar areas of work. Manage limited resources within defined areas of work. 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	12
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24
Independent Study	164
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:

Students will be given a current and updated reading list, but the following two resources will provide the essential underpinning for the module content:

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)

(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	
External Examiner	Gary Betts
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☐ No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
A final exam/class test worth 70% of the final mark
Assessment 2
An essay worth 30% of the final mark
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
	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	70	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	30	

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