Module Descriptor

Title	Evidence		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW09034	**SCQF Level**	Level 9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Nicholas Burgess		

Summary of Module

This module covers the fundamentals of the Scots law of evidence relating to criminal and civil matters. The course outline below is indicative and the final form will take into account any potential changes to the law such as those proposed under the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

The course will be roughly split into four parts, although there will be some overlap between these:

(1) Background and basic concepts:

• Types of evidence (real, oral, documentary);

• The operation of the adversarial criminal trial and civil proof;

• Relevance;

• Standards and burdens of proof;

• Admissibility;

• Weight;

• Sufficiency;

• Human rights law considerations

(2) Evidence in criminal cases:

• Burden and standard of proof (including re defences);

• Sufficiency and corroboration (including the Moorov doctrine; distress as corroboration; circumstantial evidence; and identification issues);

• Admissibility (including the best evidence rule; hearsay; improperly obtained evidence and confessions; character and collateral evidence)

• Witness competence and compellability

• Criminal law-specific presumptions

(3) Evidence in civil cases:

• Burden and standard of proof;

• Sufficiency

• Admissibility (including best evidence; hearsay; statutory documentary evidence)

• Civil law-specific presumptions (4) Evidential rules generally applicable to criminal and civil cases • Judicial knowledge • Opinion and expert evidence • Vulnerable witnesses (particularly the provisions of the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004 and other statutory frameworks) • Privileges • Res judicata / double jeopardy

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	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Gain knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts in the Scots law of evidence as outlined above in the Module Summary.
L2	Apply the knowledge and understanding of the Scots law of evidence to complex legal problems.
L3	Acquire practical skills in identifying and retrieving up-to-date legal information from paper and electronic resources, and to undertake independent legal research in this new area of law.
L4	Acquire transferable skills in critical and conceptual thinking; making appropriate use of feedback; effective oral and written communication; and working independently and as a team.
L5	

[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

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 law of evidence 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 law of evidence.
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 law of evidence. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised and/or advanced.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in law of evidence. 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 law of evidence, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information on standard/mainstream topics in law of evidence to a range of audiences. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or inlaw of evidence. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. 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)
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: Eamon Keane and Fraser Davidson (eds), Raitt on Evidence: Principles, Policy and Practice (3rd edn, 2018) * James Chalmers, Scottish Evidence Law Essentials (6th edn, 2024) Further reading: ML Ross, J Chalmers and I Callander, Walker and Walker: The Law of Evidence in Scotland (5th edn, 2020) GH Gordon with CHW Gane and J Chalmers (eds), Renton and Brown's Criminal Procedure according to the Law of Scotland (6th edn, 1996) (loose-leaf service, regularly updated) ch 24 (Evidence)
(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:** Attending timetabled teaching sessions, accessing course-related learning resources and complete and submit assessments on time.

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	Colin McFadyen
External Examiner	T Kirk
Accreditation Details	Law Society of Scotland
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
In-person Written Examination (50%)
Assessment 2
Essay (50%)
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**
Exam	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	50	2

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Oral	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	2 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Updated for new MD template	21/10/2025	Samuel White