Module Descriptor

Title	Foundations of Rights		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	**Approved**
Code	LAWW07028	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**School of Business & Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Samuel White		

Summary of Module

This module provides students with an introduction to and good grasp of the basics of human rights law and theory applicable to Scotland and the UK.

Students undertaking this module will be introduced to the underlying legal theory of rights as well as to core UK human rights legislation (e.g. the Human Rights Act 1998) and relevant international law (e.g. the European Convention on Human Rights). It will offer students an opportunity to start thinking about the role of human rights within the Scottish legal system as well as considering the sources and nature of human rights as a phenomenon of legal theory.

As a foundational module, this module will aid students in the development of skills necessary for studying law. Students will learn about good practice for file management, note-taking and studying and will learn how to find, interpret, use and reference sources of law individually and as part of a group.

Finally, the module will provide an underpinning for a rights-focused approach to the study of law across multiple subject areas and SCQF levels.

The module will adopt a blended means of delivery whereby students will be expected to attend lectures and participate in in-person workshops supplemented by a range of online teaching materials. Lectures (1 hour) and workshops (2 hours) will be delivered weekly covering all of the topics. Students are expected to prepare for the workshops through attendance at the relevant lecture and engagement with the online teaching materials. In the workshops students will engage in active learning through a range of problem-solving activities and engage in critical debate on the topics being explored

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	Demonstrate ability to find and interpret sources of human rights law in Scotland and the UK.
L2	Demonstrate understanding aspects of legal theory appropriate to human rights.
L3	Demonstrate awareness of international instruments underpinning the domestic human rights framework in Scotland.
L4	Apply law from relevant domestic sources to questions of human rights.
L5	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law.

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 Level 7** Understanding the theory of rights in law. Understanding of the fundamental sources of human rights law in Scotland and the wider UK. Understanding of the international nature of human rights treaties as sources of human rights in the UK.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF Level 7** Identifying and applying primary and secondary sources of human rights law to legal questions.

[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

	Demonstrating knowledge of a range of major concepts, values, principles related to the theory and practice of human rights.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF Level 7** Using basic and routine legal skills, techniques, practices and materials. Practicing these in both routine and non-routine contexts
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF Level 7** Utilising a wide range of skills, including the use of information and communications technology, for the gathering, basic analysis and presentation of routine legal information ideas and concepts. Conveying complex ideas in well-structured and coherent form. Using a range of forms of communication effectively in both familiar and new contexts.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF Level 7** Exercising initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities independently or as part of a team under guidance. Identifying, reflecting upon and addressing personal learning needs

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	24
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	164
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Murdoch, J. L., 'Reed and Murdoch: Human Rights Law in Scotland' (Fifth Edition) Bloomsbury Professional (2024)

Freeman, M., 'Human Rights (Key Concepts)' (Fourth Edition) Polity (2022) **Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.** Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.
(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 lectures and workshops

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. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics.
(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	J Wilson
External Examiner	Tracy Kirk
Accreditation Details	Law Society for Scotland
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Legal Research Task 30%

Assessment 2
In-person Written Examination 70% BA (Hons) Law students intending to progress to Level 8 of the BA (Hons) Law programme can opt for an alternative assessment to this one at the resit diet. This alternative assessment will cover the same learning outcomes as the in-person written examination and will be determined by the Module Coordinator and subject to approval by the External Examiner.
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**
Research Task	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	30	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Exam	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	70	2

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

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**