Module Descriptor

Title	International Criminal Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	LAWW10023	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Samuel White		

Summary of Module

This module provides an overview of international criminal law. You will be introduced to the principles of international criminal law, the institutions designed to enforce it and the substantive law of the four 'core' international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression). In addition, the module considers key cases, as well as impediments to the prosecution of international crimes, critiques of international criminal law and the future of international criminal law.

The module aims not only to ensure that you understand the key aspects of international criminal law but also that you can apply these to real-world situations. Beyond this, the module is designed to ensure that you develop skills which will be useful outside the classroom such as confidence in public speaking, analysis of complex issues and the ability to engage with and discuss conceptually challenging topics.

This module is developed in accordance with the UWS Graduate Attributes and will allow you to develop the range of skills, qualities and abilities which will prepare you for success both outwith university and beyond your period of study at UWS. This module will help develop academic skills such as gaining knowledge, being a critical thinker, being analytical, being a problem solver, being digitally literate and being an autonomous learner.

This module aims:

- To equip students of the module with knowledge of the principles of international criminal law, its core crimes, key institutions and main critiques.

- To ensure students who undertake the module are able to understand and explain the international criminal law aspects of current events and international affairs.

- To develop students' knowledge of aspects of public international law.

This module will be delivered by means of twelve interactive seminars lasting two hours. These seminars are intended to enable students to develop their skills in critical thinking, analysis and reasoning. Students are expected to prepare fully in advance of each weekly seminar and will be expected to present to the class in a number of ways at times during the trimester, individually and in groups.

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	Acquire knowledge and understanding of the principles of international criminal law.
L2	Identify and apply principles of international criminal law to legal issues and propose solutions to current questions in international criminal law.
L3	Critically evaluate debates in and criticisms of international criminal law.
L4	Independently utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of international criminal 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 10** Demonstrate and/or work with: Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of international criminal law. A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles. Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which international criminal law has developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.

[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

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 international criminal law. To practise in a range of professional level contexts that include a degree of unpredictability and/or specialism.
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. Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with professional issues. Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in international criminal law.
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 international criminal law, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information about specialised topics to informed audiences. Communicate with peers, senior colleagues and specialists on a professional level. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Exercise autonomy and initiative in professional/equivalent activities. Work with others to bring about change, development and/or new thinking.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	LAWW09027	Public International Law
	LAWW09018	International Human Rights Law
	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: D Robinson, S Vasiliev, E van Sliedregt, and V Oosterveld, An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure (5th edn, Cambridge University Press 2024) A Cassese and P Gaeta, Casses's International Criminal Law (3rd edn, Oxford University Press 2013)* C Stahn, A Critical Introduction to International Criminal Law (Cambridge University Press 2018) Other essential resources, such as journal articles and online resources will be identified at the beginning of each delivery in the module handbook and made available via the VLE
(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:** In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on Moodle, and complete assessments and submit these on time. Please refer to the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure. Attendance at seminars, completion of activities on the VLE, participation in class discussions.

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	**Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **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	Dr J Wilson
External Examiner	Dr K A Cannon
Accreditation Details	N/A
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Essay - worth 40%
Assessment 2
Oral Exam - worth 60%
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	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	40%	

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Oral Exam	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	60%	

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
Indicative module resources updated	March 2025	Dr S White