Module Descriptor

Title	International Humanitarian Law In Practice		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	LAWW10025	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Joanna Wilson		

Summary of Module

Inspired by the positive experiences of students at the Jean Pictet Competition, which uses a simulated conflict environment to teach students the laws of armed conflict, this module aims to highlight the practical relevance of the International Humanitarian Law in contemporary armed conflicts, as well as the human, emotional dimension to the practical application of the jus in bello. An 'affect-based' approach will be adopted in order to foster a contextualised and practical understanding of the application of IHL.

Following on from 4 introductory lectures on the key rules and principles of international humanitarian law, the module will take a dynamic, interactive approach to the teaching of IHL, in order to emphasise the practical importance of this body of law, as well as highlighting the real-life challenges surrounding its implementation. Students will be assigned to small groups to directly examine selected issues taken from present-day reality, and prepare analyses of these individually and collectively. In these interactive workshops, the groups will engage in fictional scenarios and watch as the situation develops week-on-week, as on-the-ground events shape (and complicate) the legal issues to be navigated/resolved.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**
	☒	☐	☐	☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr	☐ Lanarkshire	☐ Online / Distance Learning	

[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

	☐ Dumfries		☐ London ☒ Paisley		☐ 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 a consolidated understanding of key rules and principles of international humanitarian law.
L2	Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges arising when operationalising humanitarian law in the reality of complex environments, and apply this to real and fictious case examples.
L3	Demonstrate highly developed skills in written communication and legal research..
L4	Demonstrate highly developed skills in oral presentation and advocacy.
L5	Work effectively as members of a group to successfully deliver the above written and oral outputs.

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 Humanitarian Law. 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 International Humanitarian Law. Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which International Humanitarian Law has 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 International Humanitarian Law. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of International Humanitarian Law.

	In executing a defined project of research, development or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes. 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 Humanitarian Law. 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 International Humanitarian 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. Exercise significant managerial responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. Work, under guidance, in a peer relationship with specialist practitioners. Work with others to bring about change, development and/or new thinking. 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)
n/a	
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24
Independent Study	176
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:

Textbook:

Melzer, N., INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2019) Available at: https://library.icrc.org/library/docs/DOC/icrc-4231-002-2019.pdf

A diverse range of readings will be assigned each week, particularly in the opening 4, more instructive, weeks. While these will come from a variety of sources, many will likely be found in:

Journals:

International Review of the Red Cross (CUP)

Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law (Springer)

Blogs:

Humanitarian Law and Policy (ICRC)

Primary Sources:

To complete the weekly interactive workshop group tasks, students will require access at all times to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols:

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Geneva Convention), 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 31

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Geneva Convention), 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 85 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Geneva Convention), 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 135 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 287 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977, 1125 UNTS 3 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977, 1125 UNTS 609
(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, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Engagement Panel or other appropriate body, and could prevent student progression, and ultimately successful degree completion.

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. Reasonable accomodation will be made as applicable within the module to both teaching and assessments.
(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 Samuel White
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
Component 1 Group Written Report – Individual Written Section - 80%
Assessment 2
Component 2 Group Reflective Presentation – 20%
Assessment 3
NA
(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**
Report	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	80	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Presentation	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	20	0.5

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
NA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	0	0
Combined total for all components						100%	0.5 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Garry Bets as Ext Examiner	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
Assessment to 2 components - 80/20	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson

LO alignment amended in line with above	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
SCQF descriptors amended	5/3/25	Joana Wilson