Module Descriptor

Title	Introduction To Legal Theory		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW07032	**SCQF Level**	Level 7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	D Buglass		
Summary of Module The purpose of this module is to provide students with an introduction to legal philosophy. The module will introduce students to key legal theorists and legal debates thus encouraging students to take a critical approach to the study of Law. The module will explore ongoing debates in law such as the relationship between law and morality, the concept of justice, how the law is structured, one's obligation to obey the law, and the authority of law.			

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

[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

L1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key philosophies of law.
L2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of tensions between the different philosophies of law.
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how legal philosophy can be used to critique particular laws.
L4	Demonstrate ability to apply legal philosophy to analyse contemporary debates.
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 legal theory. Knowledge that is embedded in the main theories, concepts and principles of legal theory. An awareness of the dynamic nature of knowledge and understanding.
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 legal theory.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas that are routine to legal theory. 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 legal theory, 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.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities at a professional level in practice or in legal theory. Accept supervision in less familiar 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	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
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: M Salter and J Mason Writing Law Dissertations (2007 Longman) L Webley Legal Writing (4th edition, 2016, Routledge)
(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, preparation of required tasks and activities in advance of 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.
(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	S White
External Examiner	T Kirk
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1.0

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Essay **70%**
Assessment 2
Oral Presentation **30%**
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	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	70	2

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Oral Presentation	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	30	0

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
Transfer to updated module descriptor	10/2025	Samuel White