Module Descriptor

Title	Involuntary Obligations		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW08030	**SCQF Level**	Level 8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Clive Mitchell		

Summary of Module

This course will cover the law related to Involuntary Obligations which includes within it several delicts recognised in common and statutory law in Scotland.

The law of negligence covers issues related to the duty of care, the standard and degree of care, the burden of proof, causation, and remoteness of damage. Other common law delicts this module will cover include nuisance, economic loss, professional negligence, and psychiatric injury. This module will also examine the caselaw and international legal instruments related to breach of confidence, and privacy law. Further, this module will also cover a range of statutory delicts. This module will cover harm to reputation by examining the Defamation & Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act, 2021. Other statutory instruments covered by this course include the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act, 1960, and Animals (Scotland) Act 1987. This module will also cover the main principles underlying the award of damages, remedies in delictual actions, and limitations on claims.

The course will include extensive reference to case law and the coursework will provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of particular topics. The seminars will be problem based, involving the application of the principles studied to hypothetical examples.

This module is developed in accordance with the UWS Graduate Attributes and helps students to develop the range of skills, qualities and abilities which will prepare them for success both outwith university and beyond their period of study at UWS. This module will help the student 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.

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	Investigate and evaluate the law of Involuntary Obligations as it has developed in Scots Law through both common law and statute.
L2	Evaluate problems in terms of legal concepts and apply legal principles of the law of involuntary obligations in order to propose solutions.
L3	Study and evaluate the reports of relevant court decisions and assess their significance within the law of Involuntary Obligations.
L4	Make effective use of physical and electronic resources in order to acquire specialist legal information.
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 8** Demonstrate and/or work with: A knowledge of the scope, defining features, and main areas of involuntary obligations. Specialist knowledge in some areas.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding:

[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

	In using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with involuntary obligations, a few of which are advancedand/or complex. In carrying out routine lines of enquiry, development or investigation into professional level problems and issues.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings in involuntary obligations.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills associated with involuntary obligations, for example: Convey complex information to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes. Use and evaluate numerical and graphical data to measure progress and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in involuntary obligations. Manage resources within defined areas of work. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice. Manage, under guidance, 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	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	12
Independent Study	152
Please select	

Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Cameron, G., Delict Law Basics (5th edition, W Green 2018) Cameron, G., Thomson's Delictual Liability (6th edition, Bloomsbury Professional 2021) McManus, F., Delict Law Essentials (4th edition, Edinburgh University Press 2021) McManus, F. et al., Delict: A Comprehensive Guide to the Law in Scotland (3rd edition, Edinburgh University Press 2021)* Pillans, B. Delict: Law & Policy (5th edition, W Green 2014) Stewart, W.J., A Casebook on Delict (2nd edition, W Green/Sweet & Maxwell 1997)
(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	M Jones
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 (60%)
Assessment 2
Essay (40%)
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	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	60	2

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	40	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**
Transferred to new Module Descriptor form	18/10/2025	Samuel White
