Module Descriptor

Title	Law And The Political Economy		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	LAWW10026	**SCQF Level**	L10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Donald Buglass		

Summary of Module

At the core of LPE is a focus on how socio-economic inequalities, crises and power relations are legally and politically configured. LPE explores the central place of law within the wider political economy to reveal how market relations (and the inequalities experienced) are neither natural nor neutral. Rather, LPE understandings seek to unearth the ways in which law has been mobilised to protect the interests of some over others. In doing so, this module examines the ways law constitutes and protects contemporary markets, and how these legal structures might be reconfigured or reimagined to reduce socio-economic inequality and affect social change. Part of this module therefore explores how this reimagining has been theorised in the past through core texts of political economy and in present-day formulations by researchers at the forefront of LPE analyses.

The module is delivered in two parts, with a theoretical approach to LPE in the first 6 weeks, and the last 6 weeks testing these theories by applying them to a range of real-world examples. The first six weeks is theoretically demanding, engaging with several LPE theories, texts, and thinkers. The practical approach in the second half of the module, zooms in on several specific areas of interest by approaching them through an LPE lens: crypto currency, the food we eat and how its grown, the existence of sports teams and environmental crises. The module confronts a number of these issues and explores how changes in law impacts the political economy and how developments in the political economy can impacts the shape of law.

The module will be of interest to students interested in the theoretical foundation of law, critical approaches to the law, and/ or those who want to use law as a tool for social change and/or a more just society.

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, analyse, and critically evaluate the theoretical foundations of law and its relation to the political economy.
L2	Analyse problems within the political economy and apply theoretical principles to propose practical solutions.
L3	Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire legal information.
L4	Critically evaluate methodological debates applying to the role of law in the political economy.
L5	Develop reasoning skills and a capacity for independent study and learning through individual research and by participation in collective learning groups.

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** Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of Law and the Political Economy. 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, Law and the Political Economies

[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

	Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which LPE has developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of LPE. In executing a defined project of research, development or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes.
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 LPE.
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 LPE, 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. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. Work with others to bring about change, development and/or new thinking.

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)
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24 Hours
Independent Study	176 Hours
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: K Polanyi The Great Transformation (Beacon Press, 2001. 2nd ed)
(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 VLE, and engage in assessment, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Student Success team and could prevent 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.
(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	**Please select**
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 Joanna Wilson
External Examiner	G. Betts
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
The first is a critical essay of 2000 words. This component is worth 60% of your overall mark and will be marked out of 100 using the university marking rubric on Aula with a pass rate of 40% (University Regulation 3.19 & Appendix 1 Marking and Grading Scheme, UWS 2023/24).
Assessment 2
The second piece of summative assessment is a 15-minute oral presentation worth 40% of your overall grade and is marked out of 100 using the marking rubric on Aula, with a 40% pass rate (University Regulation 3.19 & Appendix 1 Marking and Grading Scheme, UWS 2023/24).b
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**
Critical Essay	☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	60%	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Oral Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	40%	0

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
Module Summary	05/03/25	Donald Buglass
Mapping of LOs against assesment	05/03/25	Donald Buglass