Module Descriptor

Title	Public Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW07206	**SCQF Level**	Level 7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	D McFadzean		

Summary of Module

Public Law aims to give students a detailed knowledge of key aspects of constitutional law within the United Kingdom. The module begins with an examination of different types of constitutions and the distinction between legal rules, non-legal rules, and other sources. The relationship between the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary is also examined. From here, the fundamental doctrines of the constitution are examined alongside the role of the judiciary within the constitution. Students will then move on to examine the role and powers of both the Westminster and Holyrood Parliaments. From here there is an examination of the role of the Monarch and the prerogative within the constitution. The relationship between central and local government is then explored in some detail with an introduction to local government law. The important constitutional remedy of judicial review is also introduced to students. Finally, some basic international aspects of the UK constitution are examined.

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	☐

[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

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate knowledge of the sources and doctrines of the UK constitution and how these affect its operation.
L2	Understand the relationship between the United Kingdom Government, the Scottish Government, and other aspects of the devolution settlement.
L3	Understand the legislative processes of the legislatures within the United Kingdom
L4	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law
L5	Apply legal principles to propose solutions relating to constitutional law problems.

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 Public Law Knowledge that is embedded in the main theories, concepts and principles of Public Law An awareness of the dynamic nature of knowledge and understanding. An understanding of the difference between explanations based on evidence and/or research and other sources, and of the importance of this difference.
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 Public Law To practise these in both routine and non-routine contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas that are routine to Public Law 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 Public Law, 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.

	Select and use standard ICT applications to process and obtain a variety of information and data.
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 Public Law. Accept supervision in less familiar areas of work. Manage limited resources within defined areas of work. Take the lead in implementing agreed plans in familiar or defined contexts. Take account of own and others' roles and responsibilities when carrying out and evaluating tasks. 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	36
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	152
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: McFadzean, D & McFadden, J, Public Law (2nd Ed, EUP, 2016)*

Bradley, A & Ewing, K, Constitutional and Administrative Law (17th ed,

Pearson, 2018)*

Reid, P, Public Law (3rd Ed, Sweet & Maxwell, 2015)*

McFadden, Local Government Law in Scotland (2nd Ed, Bloomsbury, 2008)*

McFadden, J & Lazarowicz, M, The Scottish Parliament: An Introduction (5th Ed, Bloomsbury 2018)*

(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

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	M Campbell
External Examiner	G Betts
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1
Critical Essay 50%
Assessment 2
Oral 50%
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	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	50	3

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Oral	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	50	3

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**