Module Descriptor

Title	Scots Criminal Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW07030	**SCQF Level**	**SCQF 7**
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co- ordinator	Dr Nicholas Burgess		

Summary of Module

This module provides an introduction to the criminal law of Scotland. The 'general part' of the criminal law is considered first, including the elements of a crime (actus reus/mens rea), causation. strict liability, omissions liability, art and part liability and defences. Thereafter the 'special part' is considered, i.e., specific offences including offences against the person, property, public order, and sexual offences.

The module will adopt a blended means of delivery whereby students will be expected to attend lectures and participate in in-person workshops supplemented by a range of online teaching materials. Lectures (1 hour) and workshops (2 hours) will be delivered weekly covering all of the topics. Students are expected to prepare for the workshops through attendance at the relevant lecture and engagement with the online teaching materials. In the workshops students will engage in active learning through a range of problem-solving activities and engage in critical debate on the topics being explored.

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 understanding of the nature and components of a crime and different forms of crimes and criminal liability (including inchoate and art and part).
L2	Demonstrate understanding of criminal defences.
L3	Demonstrate understanding of common law crimes, including against the person, property and public order.
L4	Demonstrate understanding of statutory offences including sexual offences and offences of strict liability.
L5	Apply legal principles to propose solutions to criminal 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** Displaying knowledge and showing understanding of the components of a crime; the principles relating to criminal liability and defences; and the range of specific crimes in Scots law.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Identifying and using primary and secondary legal sources. Applying knowledge and understanding of legal principles to practical situations in order to draw reasoned conclusions.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Using basic and routine legal skills, techniques, practices and materials. Practicing these in both routine and non-routine contexts
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Utilising a wide range of skills, including the use of information and communications technology, for the gathering, basic analysis and presentation of routine legal information ideas and concepts. Conveying complex ideas in well-structured and coherent form. Using a range of forms of communication effectively in both familiar and new contexts.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Exercising initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities independently or as part of a team under guidance. Identifying, reflecting upon and addressing personal learning needs

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: Jones, TH and Taggart, I (2018) Criminal Law 7th ed., Edinburgh, W Green Cubie, A et al, (2022) Scots Criminal Law 5th ed., London, Bloomsbury P Ferguson and C McDiarmid, *Scots Criminal Law: A Critical Analysis* (3rd edn, EUP 2025)
(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 e]ort 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	Account Finance & Law
Moderator	Colin McFadyen
External Examiner	Martin Jones
Accreditation Details	Law Society of Scotland
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
In-person Written Examination 70% BA (Hons) Law student intending to progress to Level 8 of the BA (Hons) Law programme can opt for an alternative assessment to this one at the resit diet. This alternative assessment will cover the same learning outcomes as the in-person written examination.
Assessment 2
Essay 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**
Exam	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	70	0

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	30	2

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