Module Descriptor

Title	Voluntary Obligations		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW07031	**SCQF Level**	**SCQF 7**
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co- ordinator	Dr Donald Buglass		

Summary of Module

The aim of this module is to provide students with a contemporary understanding of the law of contract in Scotland. This will include an explanation and analysis of how contracts are formed and their substance, how contracts may be vitiated and on what grounds contractual validity may be challenged and an analysis of how contracts break down or otherwise are terminated and what remedies may be available to the parties.

Students taking this module will gain understanding of issues such as the nature of contracts, the contrast between contracts and other forms of voluntary obligation such as promise, aspects of formation of contract, such as capacity to contract, the operation of contracts, contractual terms, defective and illegal contracts and how contracts end. Consideration will be given to the remedies for breach of contract, title to sue, prescription and extinction of contractual obligations. There will be an analysis of the development of the law of unjustified enrichment and consideration of the obligation under the law of unjustified enrichment to make restitution or pay recompense in respect of any benefits received. Consideration will also be given to enforcement of contractual obligations and debt recovery.

The module will be delivered by means of lectures and workshops over one trimester supported by additional reading and asynchronous material. During workshops students will work on a variety of learning activities such as problem solving, delivery of short presentations, and group work to explore the materials.

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	Demonstrate, through providing advice to a hypothetical client, knowledge of the general concepts, principles, and rules of contract law in Scotland.
L2	Identify and use primary and secondary legal sources to analyse problems in terms of legal concepts, apply legal principles to propose solutions, and to convey complex ideas in a well-structured and coherent written form.
L3	Use industry standard electronic databases to source legislation and case authority.
L4	Develop the ability to work independently to utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of Scots contract law..
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** Understand the general principles of law applicable to contracts in Scotland. The ability to apply principles of Scots contract law to real world situations.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Demonstrate knowledge of a range of major concepts, values, principles and rules of Scots contract law.

[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

	Identify and use primary and secondary legal sources and develop an understanding of legal documentation. Interpret and explain legal concepts by analysing and studying key cases and materials in the context of specific contract issues. Collect, handle and evaluate both primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic sources.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Use basic and routine legal skills, techniques, practices and materials to give reasoned opinions. Bring together information from a variety of sources, including textbooks, case law and legislation. Practice such skills in class and independently.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Utilise 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. Convey complex ideas in well-structured and coherent form by defining accurately and explain clearly the legal issues in complex problems, supported by the appropriate authority. Develop and hone written and oral presentation skills through work in the workshops and preparation of written assignments. Develop an ability to carry out independent research into primary and secondary legal material as assessed in the assignment and preparation for workshops. Demonstrate an ability to plan how to resolve problems and rank competing arguments Construct and present a coherent and well-argued account of individual issues. Present an oral argument on either side of a legal issue. Research, extract and combine information from a variety of sources.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Working effectively with others in groups or teams, exercising initiative in both workshops and assignments. Preparing for, and working with others in, workshops. Work to deadlines and plan work accordingly, systematically identifying and addressing their own learning needs Work independently through preparing for workshops and completing the course examination.

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:

Right Hon Lord Eassie and MacQueen, H., Gloag and Henderson: The Law of Scotland (15th edition, W Green 2022)

Black, G., Woolman & Black on Contract (6th edition, W Green 2018)

MacQueen, H., MacQueen and Thomson on Contract Law in Scotland (6th edition, Bloomsbury Professional 2024)

McBryde, W.W., The Law of Contract in Scotland (3rd edition, W Green 2007)

(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	Accounts Finance and Law
Moderator	Dr Samuel White
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
Essay 30%
Assessment 2
In person written exam 70% BA (Hons) Law students 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 and will be determined by the Module Cordinator and subject to approval by the External Examiner.
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	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	30	0

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

Exam	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	70	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