University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Criminal Law			
Code: LAWW07013	SCQF Level: 7 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Business & Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator:	Nishant Gokhale		

Summary of Module

This module provides an introduction to the criminal law of Scotland. Initially, criminal law is viewed within the sphere of public law and contrasted with other areas of law. The criminal law is then considered in more detail with reference to justifications for its use, its sources and the structures within which it operates. Thereafter, the substantive law is considered, as follows:

- The fundamentals of establishing criminal liability (actus reus, mens rea and strict liability).

- Important doctrines concerning liability (e.g. causation, art and part and attempts) and defences.

- The range of specific crimes, but focusing on the common law crimes against the person; against property; against public order and against justice.

The module is delivered using both lectures and tutorials. Lectures will be conducted each week; while tutorials will run from the third week onwards. Lectures involve the delivery and exposition of the material forming the basis of the module. Though this is structured and led by the lecturer, it is also intended that there will be a reasonable degree of student participation. Tutorials, however, make quite specific demands upon students in relation to preparation and participation. Tutorial questions and case studies are distributed at least one week before the tutorial takes place, allowing students to prepare appropriately. While tutorials are dependent upon student effort, they are conducted in a manner that is structured and supported by the tutor.

- L1. Investigate, analyse and evaluate areas of substantive criminal law.

- L2. Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire legal material.

- L3. Analyse practical case studies in terms of relevant legal principle, in

order to reach practical conclusions.

- L4. Engage in critical discourse in relation to relevant legal issues.

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	**Blended**	**Fully Online**	**HybridC**	**Hybrid 0**	**Work-Based Learning**
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery						
The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) **These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.** At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Assess the elements of a crime and the definitions of a specific crime
L2	Examine specific crimes and doctrines concerning criminal responsibility and defences, with reference to relevant legislation and case law
L3	Apply the knowledge and skills previously noted to the consideration of case studies
L4	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law
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 Level **7** Displaying knowledge and showing understanding of: the components of a crime; the principles relating to criminal liability and defences; the range of specific crimes known to the law of Scotland, particularly those relating to crimes against the person, property, public order and justice.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **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 Level **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 Level **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 Level **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.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:**	**Module Title:**

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

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** (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	36
Independent Study	164
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
	200 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Sheriff Cubie, AM (2016) Scots Criminal Law, 4th ed., London, Bloomsbury Professional

Jones, TH & Taggart I, (2018) Criminal Law 7th ed., London, Sweet and Maxwell

Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia, (1995) The Laws of Scotland, Criminal Law Vol. 7

Gane, CHW & Stoddart, CN (2009) Casebook on Scottish Criminal Law 4th ed

Sheils, Bradley and others (2007) Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 12th edition, W Green

Gordon G. (Ed.) (1996) Renton & Brown's Criminal Procedure 6th ed., Edinburgh, W Green

Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia, Volume 17

*Raitt, F. Evidence, W. Green & Son or Wilkinson, The Scottish Law of Evidence, Butterworths

Sheldon, D. Evidence, Cases and Materials. W. Green & Son Westlaw

Evidence Essentials - Scottish Legal Essentials, James P Chalmers, Dundee University Press, 2012 I D Macphail, Scottish Criminal Evidence: Procedure and Practice (Incomplete typescript, 2009)
http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/macphailevidence/scottishcriminalevidenceprocedurepractice.aspx

Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(**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 Virtual Learning Environment, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Engagement Panel, and could prevent student progression, and ultimately 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.

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..

(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 and Law
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒
School Assessment Board	Accounting, Finance and Law
Moderator	Colin McFadyen
External Examiner	M.J. Hussain
Accreditation Details	e.g. ACCA Click or tap here to enter text.
Changes/Version Number	

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

This section should make transparent what assessment categories form part of this module (stating what % contributes to the final mark).
Maximum of 3 main assessment categories can be identified (which may comprise smaller elements of assessment).
NB: The 30% aggregate regulation (Reg. 3.9) (40% for PG) for each main category must be taken into account. When using PSMD, if all assessments are recorded in the one box, only one assessment grid will show and the 30% (40% at PG) aggregate regulation will not stand. For the aggregate regulation to stand, each component of assessment must be captured in a separate box.
Please provide brief information about the overall approach to assessment that is taken within the module. In order to be flexible with assessment delivery, be brief, but do state assessment type (e.g. written assignment rather than "essay" / presentation, etc) and keep the detail for the module handbook. Click or tap here to enter text.

Assessment 1: An oral presentation worth 20% of the final mark

Assessment 2: An essay worth 30% of the final mark

Assessment 3: A class test worth 50% of the final mark

(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.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation		✓	✓	✓	-	20	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	30	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Class Test (written)	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	50	-
Combined Total for All Components						100%	0 hours

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections. .	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)