

# University of the West of Scotland

## Module Descriptor

Session: 2023-2024

<b>Title of Module: Media and the Law</b>			
<b>Code: LAWW09030</b>	<b>SCQF Level: 9 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)</b>	<b>Credit Points: 20</b>	<b>ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)</b>
<b>School:</b>	School of Business & Creative Industries		
<b>Module Co-ordinator:</b>	Mhairi Campbell		
<b>Summary of Module</b>			
<p>This module will provide students with the opportunity for students to learn in depth and understanding of the issues surrounding the law and the Media in the UK.</p> <p>Media and the Law module will be delivered over 12 weeks giving students the opportunity to gain a thorough of the legal principles and concepts which have an impact upon the activities of the media industry. This will facilitate the students critical understanding of the media and the regulatory structures which impinge upon it.</p> <p>The topics which will be covered include:</p> <p>The role and function of regulatory bodies including the Independent Press Standards Organisation, Ofcom and the Advertising Standards Authority.</p> <p>The application of the law contempt of court, defamation and verbal injury in relation to both print and broadcast media; rights and responsibilities of court reporters in reporting both civil and criminal cases.</p> <p>Media reporting restrictions concerning cases involving children, custody cases, matrimonial cases, cases relating to sexual offences.</p> <p>The jurisdiction and procedures of Children's Hearings, Fatal Accident Inquiries and Tribunals and Inquiries and the media reporting restrictions which apply to them.</p> <p>Protection of state secrets – an examination of Official Secrets legislation and DA-Notices and the implications for the media in contravening such legislation.</p> <p>The impact of data protection legislation on the ability of the media to gather information.</p> <p>Copyright issues affecting the media</p> <p>Freedom of Information.</p>			

Breach of confidence, privacy and the impact on media reporting.

- To discuss and assess ownership and liability within the media industry.
- To Critically analyse the impact which external agencies and judicial bodies have in enforcing regulatory mechanisms.
- To evidence the ability to conduct critical legal evaluation and analysis within the area of media law. To analyse the substantive legal issues concerning the control and distribution of published material.

### Module Delivery Method

Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>See Guidance Note for details.</b>					

### 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:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add name

### Term(s) for Module Delivery

(Provided viable student numbers permit).

Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### 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	Outline, explain and analyse the law of contempt of court in relation to specific circumstances.
L2	Outline, explain and analyse the law of defamation and verbal injury in relation to specific circumstances
L3	Outline and explain the impact of the various areas of law that place reporting restrictions on the media

L4	Outline and explain the impact on the media of the laws of copyright, data protection, freedom of information and breach of confidence	
L5	Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills</b>		
<b>SCQF Headings</b>	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:	
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	<p>SCQF Level <b>9</b></p> <p>Understanding the main principles of Media Law;</p> <p>The main specialist topics within the general subject area;</p> <p>Identifying, analysing and putting into context current legal issues within Media Law.</p>	
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level <b>9</b></p> <p>Interpreting and explaining legal concepts;</p> <p>Retrieving, interpreting and manipulating primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic sources</p>	
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>9</b></p> <p>Giving reasoned opinions, identifying flaws in arguments and discriminating between the legally relevant and irrelevant.</p> <p>Bringing together information from a variety of primary and secondary legal sources.</p>	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>9</b></p> <p>Communicating effectively and appropriately in speech and writing; Interpreting complex primary legal materials.</p> <p>Making effective use of information retrieval systems and using information technology applications to present documents in an appropriate form.</p>	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level <b>9</b></p> <p>Exercising and applying appropriate learning and research skills with minimum supervision.</p>	
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>Module Title:</b>
	<b>Other:</b>	

<b>Co-requisites</b>	<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>Module Title:</b>
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\*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

<b>Learning and Teaching</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b> During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	<b>Student Learning Hours</b> (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	12
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	24
Asynchronous Class Activity	30
Independent Study	134
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
	200 Hours Total
<b>**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)</b>	

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

Bloy, D. & Hadwin, S., Law and the Media (2nd edition, Sweet & Maxwell 2011)

Dodd, M. and Hanna, M., McNae's Essential Law for Journalists (25th edition, Oxford University Press 2020)

McInnes, R., Scots Law for Journalists (8th edition, W Green 2010)\*

Quinn, F., Law for Journalists: A Guide to Media Law (6th edition, Pearson 2018)

Robertson, G. and Nicol, A., Media Law (5th edition, Penguin 2008)

Rowbottom, J., Media Law (Hart Publishing 2018)

Smartt, U., Media & Entertainment Law (4th edition, Routledge 2019)

Click or tap here to enter text.

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:

### **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

<b>Divisional Programme Board</b>	Accounting, Finance and Law
<b>Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>School Assessment Board</b>	Accounting, Finance and Law
<b>Moderator</b>	Clive Mitchell
<b>External Examiner</b>	Mumtaz Hussain
<b>Accreditation Details</b>	Not applicable
<b>Changes/Version Number</b>	1

### 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 assignment worth 80% of the final mark covering the law of contempt of court (and associated reporting restrictions) and the law of defamation and associated actions.

Assessment 2 – An online group presentation worth 20% of the final mark covering areas including, but not limited to, reporting restrictions, official secrets legislation, copyright, data protection, freedom of information and breach of confidence issues.

(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)**

<b>Component 1</b>							
<b>Assessment Type (Footnote B.)</b>	<b>Learning Outcome (1)</b>	<b>Learning Outcome (2)</b>	<b>Learning Outcome (3)</b>	<b>Learning Outcome (4)</b>	<b>Learning Outcome (5)</b>	<b>Weighting (%) of Assessment Element</b>	<b>Timetabled Contact Hours</b>
Essay	✓	✓				80	0

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