

## University of the West of Scotland

## Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

<b>Title of Module: Law and The Political Economy</b>			
<b>Code:</b>	<b>SCQF Level: 10 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)</b>	<b>Credit Points: 20 credit</b>	<b>ECTS: (European Credit Transfer Scheme)</b>
<b>School:</b>	School of Business and Creative Industries		
<b>Module Co-ordinator:</b>	Donald Buglass		
<b>Summary of Module</b>			
<p><i>How is the economic sustainability of sport subject to political and legal oversight?</i></p> <p><i>Are markets the appropriate mechanism for the organisation of food production and distribution or is state intervention in the food system desirable?</i></p> <p><i>Should land use and ownership be subject to environmental restrictions?</i></p> <p><i>Do crypto currencies challenge the legal power of states, and should they be regulated?</i></p> <p>These are some contemporary challenges that dominate politics today. Each have an important economic dimension when they operate within markets. They also have an important political dimension which asks if and how they should be regulated by the state or left to market actors. Within this dynamic law appears everywhere, whether it is determining the rules of the market through competition law, through regulations, contract law and property rights, or commitments to International Law. Recognising these dimensions as interrelated allows us to take Law and the Political Economy (LPE) approach to understanding the complexity of these issues.</p> <p>At the core of LPE is a focus on how socio-economic inequalities, crises and power relations are legally and politically configured. LPE explores the central place of law within the wider political economy to reveal how market relations (and the inequalities experienced) are neither natural nor neutral. Rather, LPE understandings seek to unearth the ways in which law has been mobilised to protect the interests of some over others. In doing so, this module examines the ways law <i>constitutes</i> and <i>protects</i> contemporary markets, and how these legal structures might be reconfigured or reimagined to reduce socio-economic inequality and affect social change. Part of this module therefore explores how this reimagining has been theorised in the past through core texts of political economy and in present-day formulations by researchers at the forefront of LPE analyses.</p>			

The module is delivered in two parts, with a theoretical approach to LPE in the first 6 weeks, and the last 6 weeks testing these theories by applying them to a range of real-world examples. The first six weeks engages with key LPE theories, texts, and thinkers. The practical approach in the second half of the module, zooms in on several specific areas of interest: crypto currency, our employment relations, the food we eat and how its grown, the existence of sports teams and environmental crises. This module confronts a number of these difficulties and so the module will be of interest to students interested in critical approaches to the law, and/ or those who want to use law as a tool for social change and/or a more just society.

### Module Delivery Method

Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:
<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	Term 2	Term 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 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	Investigate, analyse, and critically evaluate the theoretical foundations of law and its relation to the political economy.
L2	Make effective use of library and electronic resources to acquire legal information.
L3	Analyse problems within the political economy and apply theoretical principles to propose practical solutions.

L4	Critically evaluate debates applying to the role of law in the political economy.
L5	Develop reasoning skills and a capacity for independent study and learning through individual research and by participation in collective learning groups.
<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>10</b></p> <p>Critical understanding of the principle theories, concepts and terminology used within Law and the political economy</p> <p>Detailed knowledge of a variety of specialist topics within the area of law and the political economy</p>
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level <b>10</b></p> <p>Demonstrating critical awareness of the role of law within society.</p> <p>Demonstrating knowledge of conflicting theories of political Economy and an ability in navigating them.</p>
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>10</b></p> <p>Bring together a wide range information from a variety of sources, including textbooks, journal articles, scholarly monographs, case law and legislation.</p>
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>10</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Develop and hone written and oral presentation skills through work in the workshops and preparation of written assignments.</p> <p>Develop an ability to carry out independent research into primary and secondary legal material.</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to plan how to resolve problems and rank competing arguments.</p>

	Research, extract and combine information from a variety of sources.	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level <b>10</b></p> <p>Working effectively with others in groups or teams, exercising initiative in both tutorials and assignments. Preparing for, and working with others in, tutorials.</p> <p>Work to deadlines and plan work accordingly, systematically identifying and addressing their own learning needs.</p> <p>Work independently through preparing for seminars and through completion of the assessment.</p>	
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	<b>Module Code: n/a</b>	<b>Module Title: n/a</b>
	<b>Other: n/a</b>	
<b>Co-requisites</b>	<b>Module Code: n/a</b>	<b>Module Title: n/a</b>

\*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>	
<p><b>Learning Activities</b> During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:</p>	<p><b>Student Learning Hours</b> (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)</p>
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	24 hours
Independent Study	176 Hours
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
	Hours Total 200

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

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

K Polanyi The Great Transformation (Beacon Press, 2001. 2nd ed)

J K Galbriath A History of Economics (London, England : Penguin Books Ltd., 1989)

C Sackrey et al Introduction to Political Economy (Dollars & Sense; Economics Affairs Bureau, Inc, Boston, MA. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

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 VLE, and engage in assessment, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Student Success team and could prevent 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

<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>	Dr Joanna Wilson
<b>External Examiner</b>	Format: First initial + Surname. No titles. Please only enter if examiner has been approved for this module.
<b>Accreditation Details</b>	e.g. ACCA <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>Changes/Version Number</b>	1

### Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

The summative assessment consists of two parts.

The first is a critical essay of 2000 words. This component is worth 60% of your overall mark and will be marked out of 100 using the university marking rubric on Aula with a pass rate of 40% (University Regulation 3.19 & Appendix 1 Marking and Grading Scheme, UWS 2023/24).

The second piece of summative assessment is a 15-minute oral presentation worth 40% of your overall grade and is marked out of 100 using the marking rubric on Aula, with a 40% pass rate (University Regulation 3.19 & Appendix 1 Marking and Grading Scheme, UWS 2023/24).

Assessment 1 – Critical Essay

Assessment 2 – Oral Presentation

(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
Written Review assessment	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	60%	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
Clinical/ Fieldwork/ Practical skills assessment/ Debate/ Interview/ Viva voce/ Oral	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	40%	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
<b>Combined Total for All Components</b>						<b>100%</b>	<b>0 hours</b>

**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)**