

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title	Legal Fundamentals
Course Title(s)	LLB (Hons) Law LLB (Hons) Law (Business) LLB (Hons) Law (with Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Criminology and Law
College	College of Society and Professions
School	School of Law and Education
Parent Course (if applicable)	LLB (Hons) (Law)
Level	4
Semester	1
Module Code	Law_4_LEF
Credit Value	20
Student Study Hours	Total hours: 200 Contact hours: 36 Student managed learning hours: 164
Pre-requisite Module(s) or/and learning	N/a
Co-requisite Module(s)	N/a
Module Leader	TBC
Short Description	This module introduces students to aspects of the English Legal System, and practical, transferable and legal skills and legal theory essential to effective engagement with their legal studies. Students are introduced to the theories of what law is and what are its sources, the court system, and the personnel involved in the administration of the law. Students will encounter and develop a range of skills, including study skills, research skills, deriving law from primary sources and explaining, discussing and applying it, and researching, using secondary sources, written, communication and IT skills and reflective learning.
Aims	This module aims to: • develop an understanding of the English Legal System, its operation, personnel, and the use of sources of law; consider the development of the Legal System and identify major influences upon it; • provide a grounding in legal, transferable and practical skills essential to the study and practice of law; • provide structured practice so that students can acquire and develop these skills; enable students to encounter differing legal theories and develop an awareness of the influences on law and its development;

	assist students to reflect upon their learning and to set goals and to plan to meet their study and training needs; and assist students to equip themselves for study at University.
Learning Outcomes (Recommended 4 to 6 outcomes)	By the end of the module, you will be able to: Knowledge and Understanding (A) A2. Explain key legal doctrines and debates in domestic as well as international law. Intellectual Skills (B) B2. Interpret and explain case law, legislation, and legal commentary. Transferable Skills (D) D2. Use digital technologies responsibly, including presentation tools, legal databases, and emerging legal technologies. D4. Develop personal strategies supporting decision making, initiative and career development.
Employability	This module develops students' capacity to manage their own time, undertake self-reflection and personal development whilst building students' confidence. Students are introduced to aspects of academic research and communication skills, and academic and digital literacies, including appropriate use of digital technologies. The introduction of these skills is explicitly connected to potential future careers, including careers within the legal professions, governmental and non-governmental careers and policy and business roles, as well as other graduate careers.
Teaching and Learning Pattern	Lectures Group Work Seminars Tutorials Laboratory Workshops Practical VLE Activities
Indicative Content	1. Sources of Law 2. Structure of the Courts 3. Precedent 4. Statutory Interpretation 5. AI and Legal Fundamentals 6. Legal Research Skills and Success Planning 7. Reflective Writing and Academic Writing 8. Legal Professions 9. Judiciary 10. Civil and Criminal
Assessment Method	Formative assessment: Throughout the semester each seminar is a formative activity that builds the students skills base towards the summative assessments and gives a firm foundation to the commencement of the students' law degree.

	Students will obtain feedback in-class on activities which can form the foundation of their learning journal entries or which they will reflect on for their summative assessment. Summative assessment: CW1 Portfolio of Practice 100% [Module LOs: A2, B2, D2, D4] Students will produce a portfolio of practice from work undertaken during the module or reflecting on themes introduced during the module and their professional aspirations and development. Students will have a choice between submitting 3 shorter guided writing activities, based on activities undertaken during seminars, or a longer-format reflective diary entry. There is also a compulsory written reflection which students must include reflecting on completion of their LSBU Personal Development Plan. A) Learning Journal: 3 Guided writing activities [A2, B2, D2], plus PDP reflection [D4]. OR B) Reflective diary: Reflective diary e.g. diary style written work [A2, B2, D2], plus PDP reflection [D4].
Mode of Resit	Formative assessment: See above Summative assessment: Same assessment method, make good
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	Current editions of: Core materials: A Gillespie, <i>The English Legal System</i> (OUP) E Finch and S Fafinski, <i>Legal Skills</i> (OUP) Other materials: J Holland and J Webb, <i>Learning Legal Rules</i> (OUP) S Wilson, R Mitchell, T Storey, <i>English Legal System</i> (OUP)
Other Learning Resources	VLE OUP Law Trove