The Legal System

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>LS</th>
<th>NQF level:</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Study duration:</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
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This module aims to:
- Equip students with an understanding of the criminal justice system
- Provide students with an overview of both the court system and its principle actors
- Describe the work of the CPS
- Clarify the roles of the police, prison and probation services
- Examine the role of the media

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- Understand how legislation is created.
- Understand the role of the criminal courts and their processes.
- Understand the roles of those key to maintaining the integrity of the judicial process
- Identify and evaluate the role, importance, responsibilities and relationships between criminal justice agencies
- Outline and assess aspects of police powers and practice
- Consider the philosophy of punishment and the penal process

Learning and teaching methods
The Learning and Teaching Methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and Tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The live lectures will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a ‘drop in’ telephone or online preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week’s work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week’s learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.
The Legal System

Syllabus

- General Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
  - Consider legal justice versus moral justice.
  - Conduct a brief overview of the Criminal Justice System
- Rules and Values
  - Explore the concept of ‘Legal Rule’
  - Identify the different ways of thinking about law
- The making of the law
  - Explore judges’ legal reasoning
  - Reflect upon the role of the law in regulating private acts
- From suspect to trial
  - Examine models of criminal justice
  - Understand police decisions
  - Look into decisions to prosecute
- The structure of the Modern English Legal System 1
  - Identify the basic criminal court structure
  - Understand the roles of the Magistrates and Crown Court judges
  - Understanding the role of the Crown Prosecution Service
- The structure of the Modern English Legal System 1
  - Understand the typicality of adversarial justice and due process
  - Identify the rights of the defendant in court
  - Identify the need for victims and witness support
- The structure of the Modern English Legal System 1
  - Explore the roles of the council for the defence
  - Understand the admission of evidence
  - Explore the role of the jury
- Criminal Justice System Legislation
  - Look at the role and development of policing
  - Understand police powers and PACE
- Appeals and miscarriages of justice
  - Explore the appeal procedure
  - Identify the role of the Criminal Cases Review Commission in considering cases thought to be potential miscarriages of justice
- Legal system and globalisation
  - Identify cross-jurisdictional and international responses to crime
  - Understand European influences on criminal justice policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion contributions</td>
<td>Fortnight</td>
<td>Unit 2 and Unit 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-module assignment</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal entry</td>
<td>500 words (each)</td>
<td>Unit 4 and Unit 8</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of module project</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>40%</td>
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