**Module Code**  
CL  

**NQF level:**  
4  

**Credit Value**  
30  

**Study duration:**  
18 weeks  

---

**Module description:**  
This is a 30 credit Level 4 module which forms part of the core of the LLB. All students must complete this part of the course. The module covers the substance of the criminal law, including general principles, defences and inchoate offences.

**This module aims to:**  
- introduce students to key criminal law concepts and principles;  
- enable students to understand the nature of crime and the role of the substantive Criminal Law including the classification of offences, modes of participation, appeals, burden of proof and proposals for reform.

**Learning outcomes**  
On completion of this module, students will be able to:  
- Define the general principles and concepts of criminal law;  
- Identify and apply the necessary elements of a crime to establish liability for specified criminal offences;  
- Select and explain any appropriate defences which could negate/reduce criminal liability;  
- Select and debate areas of reform of the criminal law;  
- Interpret and apply primary and secondary legal materials

**Syllabus**  
- Introduction to substantive criminal law  
- Actus reus 1: Principles  
- Actus reus 2: Concurrence  
- Actus reus 3: Causation  
- Mens rea  
- Homicide 1  
- Homicide 2  
- Non-fatal offences against the person 1  
- Non-fatal offences against the person 2  
- Sexual offences  
- Theft 1: Actus reus  
- Theft 2: Mens rea  
- Robbery and Burglary and Criminal Damage  
- General defences 1: Capacity  
- General defences 2: Mistake  
- General defences 3: intoxication  
- General defences 4: duress, duress of circumstances and necessity  
- General defences 5: self-defence

**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 by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by discussion forums and online lectures using the Zoom synchronous communication and application sharing facility. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant web-based resources. Within the interactive lectures and discussions you will be encouraged to explore current theoretical, practical and policy issues with your tutor and fellow students.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 assessed discussion activities</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mid module assignment – moot presentation  
- written submission (skeleton arguments and bundle)  
- presentation | Written submission (skeleton 150 words and bundle up to 1000-1500), plus a 12-15 minute oral presentation | Mid term | 30%       |
| End of module project            | 2500-3000 words| End term       | 30%       |
| Journal entries                  | 300-500 words each | Multiple | 20%       |