The English Legal System

Module Code: ELS  
NQF level: 4  
Credit Value: 15  
Study duration: 9 weeks

Module description:
This is a 15 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 operation and development of the English Legal System, both from a civil and criminal perspective. It will enable you to develop an appreciation for, and an understanding of the characteristics of the legal system, the structures that underpin it and the personnel who operate within it and are part of the legal process. The concepts that you learn in this module will be drawn upon and developed in the later stages of your legal studies.

This module aims to:
▪ equip students with an understanding of the English Legal system  
▪ provide students with an overview of both the criminal and civil court systems and principle actors  
▪ examine the role of the media

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
▪ Understand the sources of English law  
▪ Understand the nature of the common law and the doctrine of precedent  
▪ Understand the structure of the courts in England and Wales and identify the key differences between civil and criminal courts and their processes.  
▪ Utilise material from various sources in order to produce a logical argument supporting different points of view;  
▪ Comprehend and use basic numeracy information.

Syllabus
▪ Introduction to the English Legal System  
▪ Sources of Law: Legislations  
▪ The common law  
▪ Statutory Interpretations  
▪ EU and Council of Europe  
▪ The structure of the courts  
▪ Dispute resolution 1: The Criminal justice system  
▪ Dispute resolution 2: The Civil Justice System  
▪ Dispute resolution 3: Tribunals and ADR

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.

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 online 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.

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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>2 assessed discussion activities</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid module assignment</td>
<td>1500-2000 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of module project</td>
<td>1500-2000 words</td>
<td>End term</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal entries</td>
<td>300-500 words each</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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