



Module code	ULAW/4/CRLW/19/E	NQF level	4
Credit value	30	Study duration	18 weeks

Criminal Law

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:

- Provide students with a solid grounding in 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, defences and sentencing

Learning outcomes

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
 - the fundamental doctrines and principles of criminal law
 - the elements of common criminal offences and defences
 - sentencing principles applicable to common offences
 - research and analyse the law from primary sources on specific matters
- identify legal issues in varied, familiar and unfamiliar scenarios
- apply knowledge to a range of questions in a variety of legal contexts
- apply legal research findings to the solution of legal problems
- identify legal sources in both paper and electronic formats
- communicate ideas and arguments in a coherent and effective manner (using appropriate legal terminology) and organise and present information relevant to the intended audience

Syllabus

- Introduction to substantive criminal law
- Actus reus 1: principles
- Actus reus: 2 causation
- Mens rea
- Homicide 1: murder, diminished responsibility and loss of control
- Homicide 2: manslaughter, unlawful act and gross negligence
- Non-fatal offences against the person 1: assault and battery

- Non-fatal offences against the person 2: ABH and GBH
- Criminal damage: simple, aggravated and arson
- Theft 1: actus reus
- Theft 2: mens rea
- Robbery and burglary
- General defences 1: self-defence
- General defences 2: intoxication
- General defences 3: duress, duress of circumstance and necessity
- Conspiracy and attempt
- Secondary participation
- Sentencing principles

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly live seminars (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

There will be also provision for weekly meetings with tutors in their office hours supplementing online students' self-managed learning, discussing their individual queries, and directing them to require and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
2 Assessed discussion activities	2 weeks	N/A	20%
Mid module assignment (moot presentation) - Written submission (skeleton arguments and bundle) - Presentation	Written submission (skeleton 150 words and bundle up to 1,500 words) plus a 12-15 minutes oral presentation	Mid term	40%
End of module project	2,500 words	End of term	40%