



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

Legal Skills and Context

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 operation of the English legal system, including sources of law, case analysis, statutory interpretation and the court system. In addition, the module introduces professional skills for legal practice, including legal research, academic referencing, legal writing, presentation and client interviewing. Finally, the module introduces conduct issues and enables students to develop an appreciation for, and an understanding of the characteristics of the English legal system, the structures that underpin it and the personnel who operate within it and are part of the legal process. Furthermore, it enables students to develop skills essential to legal study as well as legal practice. The concepts that students learn in this module will be drawn upon and developed in the later stages of the degree.

This module aims to:

- Equip students with an understanding of the English legal system, including case analysis and statutory interpretation
- Develop students' legal writing, presentation and interviewing skills
- Develop students' understanding of the role of lawyers in society and the duties upon their conduct

Learning outcomes

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system
- demonstrate a basic knowledge of the sources of the law of England and Wales, and how it is made and developed
- demonstrate a basic knowledge of the institutions within which that law is administered and the personnel who practice law
- demonstrate an ability to research and analyse the law from primary resources on specific matters
- identify legal issues in familiar and unfamiliar scenarios
- identify legal sources
- present arguable and reasoned conclusions
- communicate ideas and arguments in a coherent and effective manner (using appropriate legal terminology) and organise and present information relevant to the intended audience
- participate in group discussion of legal issues and reach a reasoned conclusion

Syllabus

- English legal system
- Sources of law: common law and equity

- Case analysis
- Sources of law: legislation
- Statutory interpretation
- The legal system of England and Wales: court hierarchy, personnel, jurisdiction and right of audience
- Professional skills: research and writing
- Conducting legal research
- Academic integrity
- Legal writing: advising on legal issues
- Legal writing: advising on practical issues
- Advocacy and presentation
- Client interviewing
- Professional skills: conduct and services
- The role of the legal professions in society and the purpose of regulation
- The codes of conduct
- The nature of the lawyer- client relationship
- A lawyer's wider obligations: to the profession, the state, the court and the public: dealing with conflicts of interest
- Equality Act 2010
- Professional regulation: money laundering, financial services and funding
- Professional regulation: redress

Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole.

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
Assessed discussion	2 weeks	N/A	20%
Portfolio	2,500 words	Mid term	40%
End of module assignment	2,000 words of internal memorandum	End term	40%