

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### Module Title

Legal Systems, Skills and Ethics

Reference	LL1330	Version	1
Created	April 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 7
Approved	April 2017	SCQF Points	30
Amended	April 2017	ECTS Points	15

### Aims of Module

To provide students with an understanding of the foundation elements of the Scottish legal system and their operation, to introduce students to the study of law by providing them with the ability to use legal research skills, an understanding of the sources of the law and the ability to interpret and use these sources, and introduce them to the core professional legal writing and presentation skills. To introduce students to the contextual, moral and ethical basis of law and legal practice and standards of professional conduct for lawyers in Scotland.

### Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Make effective use of a law library; identify and retrieve information from a range of access points and demonstrate basic numeracy skills in making use of legal research statistics
- 2 Explain and demonstrate competence in reading and interpreting the sources of law in Scotland
- 3 Explain the jurisdiction and functions of the civil and criminal court systems, the roles of the predominant law making bodies affecting Scotland and of legal personnel
- 4 Demonstrate competence in the construction and communication of legal argument
- 5 Demonstrate understanding of the moral and ethical basis of law and legal practice and standards of professional conduct for lawyers in Scotland

### Indicative Module Content

Distinctive features of legal literature; sources of the law; legal research skills and information retrieval techniques; use of legal research statistics reading and analytical skills appropriate for primary legal sources; legal writing, problem solving and reasoning, statutory interpretation, the civil and criminal court structures; judicial precedent; legal personnel; and the relation of Scots law to UK and EU law.

### Module Delivery

This is a lecture and tutorial based module. Lectures provide core module content. Tutorials develop associated higher level skills through student centred learning.

<b>Indicative Student Workload</b>	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	72	72
Non-Contact Hours	228	228
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

## ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

### Component 1

Type: Coursework Weighting: 40% Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2  
 Description: Written assignment in two parts worth 40% of the module grade

### Component 2

Type: Examination Weighting: 60% Outcomes Assessed: 2, 3, 4, 5  
 Description: Examination worth 60% of the module grade

### Component 3

Type: Coursework Weighting: 0% Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  
 Description: Compliance on a pass/fail basis with the requirement to participate in tutorial activities.

## MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

### Explanatory Text

The module is assessed by three components: C1 - Coursework - 40% weighting. C2 - Examination - 60% weighting. C3 - Compliance on a pass/fail basis with the requirement to participate in tutorial activities. Participation requirement - each student will normally require to attend at least 70% of tutorials, or 7 tutorials where there are fewer than 10 in the module. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
<b>A</b>	At least 70% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component and a Pass in Component 3
<b>B</b>	At least 60% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component and a Pass in Component 3
<b>C</b>	At least 50% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component and a Pass in Component 3
<b>D</b>	At least 40% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component and a Pass in Component 3
<b>E</b>	At least 35% on weighted aggregate and a Pass in Component 3
<b>F</b>	Less than 35% on weighted aggregate OR a Fail in Component 3
<b>NS</b>	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

## Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

**INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1 FINCH, E. and FAFINSKI, S., 2017. *Legal skills*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2 GRANT, F., 2014. *Legal Research Skills for Scots lawyers*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: W. Green.
- 3 HANSON, S., 2016. *Legal Methods, Reasoning and Skills*. 4th ed. London: Routledge.
- 4 HIGGINS, E. and TATHAM, L., 2010. *Successful legal Writing*. 2nd ed. London: Sweet and Maxwell.
- 5 HOLLAND, J. and WEBB, J., 2016. *Learning legal rules*. 9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 6 MACQUEEN, H.L., 2016. *Studying Scots law*. 5th ed. Haywards Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.
- 7 WHITE, R.M. and WILLOCK, I.D., 2013. *The Scottish legal system*. 5th ed. Haywards Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.
- 8 COTTRELL, S., 2015 *Skills for Success: Personal Development and Employability*