

# Module Descriptor



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMMES

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Module title</b>	Criminal law
<b>Module code</b>	LA1010
<b>Module level</b>	4
<b>Contact email</b>	The Undergraduate Laws Programme courses are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre at: <a href="http://www.enquiries.londoninternational.ac.uk">www.enquiries.londoninternational.ac.uk</a>
<b>Credit value</b>	30
<b>Courses in which this module is offered</b>	CertHE, LLB, EMFSS
<b>Module pre-requisite</b>	None
<b>Notional study time</b>	300 hours

## MODULE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Criminal law is one of the seven foundation subjects required for a qualifying law degree in England and Wales and is a core requirement of the University of London LLB and CertHE Common Law programmes. This module is concerned with the general principles of criminal liability, fatal and non-fatal offences against the person and offences against property. Attempts to commit offences, secondary liability and defences also form part of the curriculum.

## MODULE AIM

This module introduces students to the aims and principles of criminal law and helps them to explain and evaluate offences and defences, and the general principles governing liability.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES: KNOWLEDGE

Students completing this module are expected to have knowledge and understanding of the main concepts and principles of criminal law. In particular they should be able to:

1. Describe the legal principles governing liability for offences against the person and property offences;
2. Describe the principles governing criminal defences;
3. Describe the legal principles governing liability for preliminary or inchoate offences and liability as an accomplice;
4. Explain the hierarchy of courts and the appeal process in criminal cases;
5. Explain the points of comparison and distinction between different offences within the same family, and different criminal defences.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES: SKILLS

Students completing this module should be able to:

6. Interpret a set of facts in order to identify legal issues arising, providing reasoned arguments and conclusions as to the criminal offences which may have been committed and defences which may be available;
7. Identify strengths and weaknesses of areas of law in terms of underlying considerations of morality, principle and policy;
8. Communicate in a clear and concise manner, using accurate legal terminology;

9. Conduct straightforward legal research tasks using legal databases and the internet to locate primary and secondary sources relevant to criminal law.

#### **BENCHMARK FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) benchmark statement for Law (2015).

#### **MODULE SYLLABUS**

- (a) *General Principles of Criminal law.*
- (b) *Actus reus.* Act requirements. Liability for omissions and situational ability.
- (c) *Causation.*
- (d) *Mens Rea.* Intention recklessness and negligence.
- (e) *Coincidence of actus reus and mens rea.*
- (f) *General defences 1.* Insanity. Automatism. Intoxication.
- (g) *General defences 2.* Necessity. Duress. Self-defence. Consent.
- (h) *Murder and voluntary manslaughter.*
- (i) *Involuntary manslaughter.*
- (j) *Non-fatal offences 1:* Section 39 Criminal Justice Act 1988.
- (k) *Non-fatal Offences 2:* Sections 18,20,47 OAPA 1861.
- (l) *Rape.*
- (m) *Theft.* Fraud. Burglary.
- (n) *Criminal damage.*
- (o) *Secondary participation.*
- (p) *Inchoate offences.* Assisting and encouraging crime and criminal attempts.

#### **LEARNING AND TEACHING**

##### **Subject guide**

Subject guides are the student's primary learning resource. The subject guide covers the entire syllabus and provides students with the grounding to complete the module successfully. The subject guide sets out the learning outcomes that must be achieved as well as providing advice on how to study the subject. The guide also includes the essential reading and a series of self-test activities together with sample examination questions, designed to enable students to test their understanding. The subject guide is supplemented each year with 'Recent Developments in Law', made available on the VLE.

##### **The Laws Virtual Learning Environment**

The Laws VLE provides one centralised location where the following resources are provided:

- a module page with news and updates, provided by legal academics associated with the Laws Programme;
- a complete version of the subject guides;
- online audio presentations;
- recent developments in law;
- past examination papers and reports;
- discussion forums where students can debate and interact with other students;
- Computer Marked Assessments – multiple choice questions with feedback are available for some modules allowing students to test their knowledge and understanding of the key topics.

##### **The Online Library**

The Online Library provides access to:

- the professional legal databases LexisLibrary and Westlaw;
- cases and up-to-date statutes;
- key academic law journals;
- law reports;

- links to important websites.

### **Core Reading**

Students should refer to the following core text. Specific reading references are provided for this text in each chapter of the Subject Guide:

Wilson, W. *Criminal law*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2014) fifth edition [ISBN 9781292001944]. This product is the book alone, and does NOT come with access to MyLawChamber.

Or

Wilson, W. *Criminal law*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2014) fifth edition [ISBN 9781292002019]. This comes with access to the eText and MyLawChamber.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Learning is supported by means of a series of activities in the Subject Guide, which develop skills outcomes 6, 7, 9 and 10. Self-assessment questions also help students to test their knowledge and understanding (outcomes 1-5). The formative activities also prepare students to reach the module learning outcomes tested in the Summative Assessment.

Summative assessment is through a three hour unseen examination. Students are required to answer 4 questions out of 8. There is a choice of problem and essay questions that test both the knowledge outcomes and skills outcomes 6, 7 and 8.

### **Permitted materials**

Students are permitted to bring into the examination room the following specified document:

*Blackstone's Statutes on Criminal Law (Oxford: Oxford University Press)*.

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780198735960.do>