

# LA104-30 Criminal Law

**20/21**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 1

**Module leader**

Victor Tadros

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

18 weeks

**Assessment**

100% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This module encourages an understanding of the general principles of criminal law and its operation within society.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

The aims of the module are to encourage students to develop an understanding of the general principles of criminal law and its operation within society, coupled with an awareness of the social and political forces which influence the scope of the law and its enforcement.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The first part of the module involves a study of the general principles of liability coupled with a consideration of the law in its social context. Particular topics to be covered include: actus reus (voluntary action, causation, omissions), mens rea (intention, recklessness, strict liability), defences of capacity (automatism, insanity, mistake and intoxication) and homicide (murder,

manslaughter and assisted suicide).

The second part of the course focuses on some more specific offences, including non-fatal offences, sexual offences and property offences (theft). We will also consider other general defences (self-defence, duress and necessity), liability for those who participate in crime, and principles of inchoate liability (such as attempts to commit crime), and review them and other general principles in the context of new forms of control and liability.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts and overall structure of English Criminal Law
- Have a detailed knowledge of some criminal offences and defence
- Have a basic knowledge of criminal procedure and an understanding of the significance of procedure in the administration of criminal law
- Have an understanding of philosophical theories criminalization and criminal liability
- Have an understanding of the historical and political contexts in which criminal law is developed and reformed
- Be able to read and analyse criminal cases and statutes
- Be able to apply legal knowledge in solving hypothetical problems of moderate complexity
- Be able to employ and assess historical, philosophical and political arguments about the scope of criminal liability and the development of criminal policy
- Be able to present and assess arguments for or against criminalization or de-criminalisation or particular conduct
- Be able to work collaboratively in class to complete a defined task
- Be able to present arguments orally in class

## Indicative reading list

S. Kyrle, T. Elliott and M. A. Walters, Clarkson & Keating Criminal Law: Texts and Materials (9th edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2017)

M. D. Dubber and T. Hörnle (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Criminal Law (Oxford University Press, 2014)

A. Lieblich, S. Maruna and L. McAra (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (6th edition, Oxford University Press, 2017)

J. Horder, Ashworth's Principles of Criminal Law (8th edition, Oxford University Press, 2016)

A. Norrie, Crime, Reason and History: A Critical Introduction to Criminal Law (3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2014)

C. Wells and O. Quick, Lacey, Wells and Quick: Reconstructing Criminal Law (4th edition, Cambridge University Press, 2010)

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

## Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

---

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	36 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	14 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	250 hours (83%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

Private study.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group BA

	Weighting	Study time
Online Examination	100%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online examination: No Answerbook required</li><li>• LA002: Warwick Criminal Statutes (Criminal Law)</li></ul>		

## Feedback on assessment

Face to face feedback by student request in October. Generic feedback provided via Moodle.

[Past exam papers for LA104](#)

---

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M105 Undergraduate Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 1 of ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
- Year 1 of ULAA-M10A Undergraduate Law with French Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 1 of ULAA-M10C Undergraduate Law with German Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 1 of ULAA-M111 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 1 of ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M115 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 1 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 4 of UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 5 of UIBA-MN37 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 1 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 1 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Optional for:

- UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
- UIBA-MN32 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
  - Year 3 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)

- Year 4 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
- Year 4 of UIBA-MN37 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
- UIBA-MN35 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
  - Year 3 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
  - Year 4 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
- UIBA-MN36 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
  - Year 4 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
  - Year 5 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)

This module is Option list E for:

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law