

LA201-30 General Principles of Constitutional & Admin Law

24/25

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

David Vitale

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This foundational module aims to offer students an introduction to the relationship between Law, State and Individual. It explores some of the basic conceptual underpinnings of this relationship (legal, political and philosophical) as well as situating key texts and theories within multiple institutional and clinical contexts.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

In giving attention to related sources of law (like Acts of Parliament, common law rules, conventions) and foundational concepts (like the legislative supremacy of Parliament, the rule of law and separation of powers), the module aims to emphasise critical reading and understanding of academic material and legal texts (cases and statutes), and also the dynamic extra-legal dimension of politics and economics that give rise to legal contestation in the first place. The module further aims to familiarise the student with the purposes, limits and possibilities of legal language and methods and thereby approach essay writing and real-world problem solving with greater autonomy and self-confidence.

The module will also provide a critical overview of the institutional and theoretical aspects of the law, alongside a deeper appreciation of its relationship to state and individuals. Student understanding of subject areas will be developed through a mixture of participatory and problem based exercises, workshops, and more orthodox lecture and seminar work. Students will thereby be able to develop and test their theories, knowledge and practical legal skills.

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.

Indicative topics to be covered in the problems set and various lectures are:

1. The nature of public law (including versus private law and international law) and the principles underpinning it
2. The nature of democracy (as opposed to other regimes) and the potential for protest or opposition to power exercised by democratic government
3. The relationship between public law, economics and politics
4. Constitutionalism and the sources of the British Constitution with consideration of its historical and colonial contexts
5. The fundamental theoretical concepts that underlie public law (and, in turn, the relationship between the individual and the state), including the rule of law, accountability, the separation of powers, and in the UK, parliamentary sovereignty
6. Multi-layered government (the EU, devolution and local government)
7. The protection of human rights (including the Human Rights Act 1998)
8. Introduction to judicial review, including the grounds for such review, as a legalised remedy for the abuse of power
9. Introduction to administrative justice (tribunals, inquiries, ombudsmen)

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and critical understanding of public law (administrative and constitutional), and its pivotal role in the relationship between individual and state
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key institutions, procedures and sources of public law (distinguishing it from private and international law)
- Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts, values and principles associated with constitutional and administrative law, and an ability to identify these in multiple contexts outside more orthodox court or legal settings
- Show knowledge and understanding constitutional and administrative law as a dynamic area entailing continuous contestation and development
- Think systematically about the wider relationship and reciprocal influences between law, politics and society with particular emphasis upon law, state and individual
- Independently relate contemporary events or new problem based situations and cases to themes addressed in the module

Indicative reading list

A. W. Bradley, K. D. Ewing, Christopher Knight, Constitutional and Administrative Law, 18th edition, Harlow: Pearson Publishing, 2022

Mark Elliott, Robert Thomas, Public Law, 4th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020

[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	8 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	32 sessions of 1 hour (11%)
Private study	220 hours (73%)
Assessment	40 hours (13%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

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 A1

	Weighting	Study time
Case Note Exercise	25%	10 hours

	Weighting	Study time
Final Coursework Essay	75%	30 hours

Feedback on assessment

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

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law
- ULAA-M105 Undergraduate Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M104 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M10A Undergraduate Law with French Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M10C Undergraduate Law with German Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M110 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M111 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M112 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M114 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year)
- ULAA-M115 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M116 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (4 Year)

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

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)
- 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)
- Year 5 of UIBA-MN36 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
- Year 3 of ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Core option list A for:

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

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