

LA217-30 Social Theory of Law

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Christine Schwöbel-Patel

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

40% coursework, 60% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module provides an introduction to contemporary theories and debates about law as a part of modern society.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module is jointly taught by members of the School of Law and the Department of Sociology. It provides an introduction to contemporary theories and debates about law as a part of modern society. During the course of the module main schools and theorists of relevance to an understanding of the role of law in modern society will be discussed.

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.

critical legal theories

law and capitalism

human rights theory
feminist jurisprudence
law and liberalism
theories of justice
legal pluralism
law and discourse
legal positivism
systems theory of law

Learning outcomes

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

- Understand the social, political and historical context in which social theories of law have emerged
- Apply their knowledge in critical discussions and comparisons of theoretical approaches
- Identify and use primary and secondary theoretical materials in books and journal articles
- Critically evaluate the analytical potentials and limits of theoretical concepts Critically assess domestic origins and international relevance of theoretical concepts
- Arrive at their own positions from which they understand social theories of law through analysis and critique
- Express their own position within the complexities of the relevant arguments in writing, as well as orally
- Work in teams, taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them effectively, word processing skills
- Being able to critically analyse and compare main concepts in social theory of law
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of theoretical approaches in the area of social theory of law

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Interdisciplinary

This module is taught jointly with the Sociology department and provides an introduction to contemporary theories and debates about law as part of a modern society.

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Teaching split

Provider	Weighting
School of Law	50%
Sociology	50%

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	36 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	14 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	250 hours (83%)
Assessment	2 hours (1%)
Total	302 hours

Private study description

Private study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D6

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
2500 word essay Essay on a given topic	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Centrally-timetabled examination (on-campus)	60%	2 hours	No
The questions are divided into two parts (part one: term1-focused; part 2:term2-focused); students must answer a question from parts one and two.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Coursework feedback via Tabula. Exam feedback given in one to one sessions in October by student request, with generic feedback posted to Moodle.

[Past exam papers for LA217](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology

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)
- ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law

- Year 2 of M300 Law
- Year 3 of M300 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 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M301 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
 - Year 2 of M301 Law (4 year)
 - Year 3 of M301 Law (4 year)
 - Year 4 of M301 Law (4 year)
- ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M106 Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of M106 Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M106 Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M355 Undergraduate Law (European)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M107 Undergraduate Law (European) Qualifying Degree
- ULAA-M104 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
 - Year 2 of M104 Law (Year Abroad)
 - Year 4 of M104 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 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
- Year 4 of ULAA-M10A Undergraduate Law with French Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M10C Undergraduate Law with German Law (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M110 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
 - Year 2 of M110 Law with Humanities (3 year)
 - Year 3 of M110 Law with Humanities (3 year)
- ULAA-M111 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M111 Law with Humanities (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of M111 Law with Humanities (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M114 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year)
 - Year 2 of M114 Law with Social Sciences (3 year)
 - Year 3 of M114 Law with Social Sciences (3 year)
 - Year 4 of M114 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 3 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)

- Year 3 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M116 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (4 Year)
 - Year 2 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)
 - Year 3 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)
 - Year 4 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)
- ULAA-M117 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- 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