

LA2D8-30 Criminal Law L5

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Bahzad Joarder

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 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, overall structure and key issues of English Criminal Law
- Have a detailed knowledge of some criminal offences and defences
- Have a basic knowledge of criminal procedure and an understanding of the significance of procedure in the administration of criminal law and justice
- Have an understanding of philosophical theories criminalization and criminal liability
- Have an understanding and critical appreciation of the historical, political and social 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 critically 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 conducts and outcomes, taking into account the social context of the criminal law
- Be able to work collaboratively in class to complete a defined task
- Be able to present arguments orally in class

Indicative reading list

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

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

Communication: Presenting arguments orally in seminars; writing essays and problem question answers. Critical

Thinking: Analysing cases/statutes; evaluating theories of criminalisation; debating policy reforms.

Digital Literacy:

Using online legal databases (Westlaw, LexisNexis); engaging with Moodle resources. Ethical

Values: Considering

moral/social implications of criminalisation; maintaining academic integrity. Information Literacy:

Reading and

analysing cases/statutes; researching for essays; selecting relevant information. Intercultural

Awareness:

Understanding cultural and societal influences on criminal law; comparing jurisdictions.

Organisational Awareness:

Appreciating roles of courts, Parliament, and enforcement agencies in shaping law. Problem

Solving : Applying legal

principles to hypothetical problem questions of moderate complexity. Professionalism: Meeting deadlines; preparing

for seminars; working under pressure during assessments. Self-Awareness : Reflecting on understanding of criminal

law; identifying and addressing knowledge gaps. Sustainability : Considering long-term societal impacts of

criminalisation and policy reforms. Teamwork : Collaborating in class to complete tasks; participating in group

discussions.

Transferable skills

See above

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	36 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	14 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	247 hours (82%)
Assessment	3 hours (1%)
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.

Assessment group B1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
In person examination	100%	3 hours	No
• Online examination: No Answerbook required • LA002: Warwick Criminal Statutes (Criminal Law)			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Individual feedback via online assessment platform. Optional further face to face feedback by student request in October. Generic feedback provided via Moodle.

[Past exam papers for LA2D8](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

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

This module is Core option list D for:

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