

# LA3C3-15 Gender, Sexuality and the Law

**26/27**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Alex Sharpe

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module considers issues pertaining to gender, sexuality and law. It situates the issues to be considered in their historical contexts, and will provide students with a range of feminist, queer and liberal theoretical frames for approaching the issues. In terms of jurisdiction, the focus will be on western democracies and specifically the UK. The proposed module on 'Gender and the Law in the Global Context' will complement this module with its more international/global south focus. In terms of content/themes, the module will use the aforementioned theoretical accounts to help students make sense of ideas of equality, justice, power, identity, and desire.

### Module aims

The module aims to consider the construction and regulation of gender and sexuality both historically and in contemporary legal settings. The module will begin by providing students with an historical and theoretical overview of feminism(s). It will introduce students to liberal, radical, difference, socialist, and intersectional feminisms. The module will then cover feminist legal methods, including feminist judgment writing, before considering feminism's relationship to equality and justice. Armed with an historical context and a series of theoretical frames and critical methods, students will then analyse and critique a series of case studies: feminism and sexuality.

feminism and race, feminism and trans.

## **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.

Feminist History and Theory  
Feminist Legal Methods I  
Feminist Legal Methods II  
Equality, Justice and Gender  
Sexuality and Feminism  
Race and Feminism  
Trans, Law Reform and Feminism I  
Trans, Law Reform and Feminism II  
Overview and Essay Guidance

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- Be able to understanding a range of feminist theories and situate them within their historical contexts
- Be able to discuss the role for law in constructing, reproducing and challenging ideas of gender and sexuality
- Be able to understand the idea of equality from a liberal perspective and from a series of feminist counter perspectives
- Be able to apply their theoretical understandings to concrete case studies
- Be able to provide a critique of law's relationship to gender and sexuality
- Be able to make a coherent set of written and oral arguments that demonstrate a nuanced understanding of law's relationship to gender and sexuality

## **Research element**

Research essay.

## **Interdisciplinary**

Engaging With feminist and queer theories beyond legal scholarship.

## **Subject specific skills**

- The module combines research and analytical skills with a highly contextual and interdisciplinary understanding of key debates around gender and sexuality in legal contexts.
- The module develops critical and imaginative thinking by using knowledge gained and its contexts, to critically analyse and evaluate the limits of the law in addressing gender and

sexuality based injustice

- The module develops advanced research and essay writing skills.

## Transferable skills

- Critical thinking
  - Oral skills
  - Advanced research skills and skills in planning a coherently structured research essay and constructing nuanced and well-reasons arguments.
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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Lectures      | 9 sessions of 2 hours (12%) |
| Seminars      | 8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)   |
| Private study | 64 hours (43%)              |
| Assessment    | 60 hours (40%)              |
| Total         | 150 hours                   |

### Private study description

Preparing for lectures and seminars.

Engaging with seminar activities.

Conducting independent research to select the essay topic and in order to write the essay.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

|                             | <b>Weighting</b> | <b>Study time</b> | <b>Eligible for self-certification</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Assessment component</b> |                  |                   |  |
| Essay                       | 100%             | 60 hours          | Yes (extension)                        |

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Formative: individual feedback on essay outlines prior to writing essay.

Summative: feedback on individual essay + generic feedback to cohort of students.

## Availability

### Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- LA346-30 Gender and the Law

## Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of ULAA-M130 Undergraduate Law
- Year 3 of ULAA-M105 Undergraduate Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M131 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
  - Year 2 of M131 Law (4 year)
  - Year 4 of M131 Law (4 year)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M132 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
- Year 2 of ULAA-M133 Undergraduate Law with French Law
- Year 2 of ULAA-M134 Undergraduate Law with German Law
- ULAA-M136 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
  - Year 2 of M136 Law with Humanities (3 year)
  - Year 3 of M136 Law with Humanities (3 year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 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 Option list A for:

- Year 3 of ULAA-M131 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M132 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M135 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
  - Year 3 of M135 Law and Sociology
  - Year 4 of M135 Law and Sociology
- Year 4 of ULAA-M133 Undergraduate Law with French Law
- Year 4 of ULAA-M134 Undergraduate Law with German Law

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of ULAA-M130 Undergraduate Law