

# LA3C5-15 Charities, Civil Society and the Law

**26/27**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Jonathan Garton

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

Multiple

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module explores the history, principles of law, and policy issues relating to charities and other civil society organisations (CSOs).

### Module aims

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop an understanding of the history, principles of law, and policy issues relating to charities and other civil society organisations. At the heart of the module is an extended analysis of the charitable trust as the core legal device for philanthropy in England and the common law world, but a range of other institutions, both local and global, are also considered. The course is interdisciplinary in its approach, drawing widely on literature from history, sociology, and political and economic theory, in order to understand and critique the regulatory frameworks in which charities and other CSOs operate.

### 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.

Particular topics will vary each year depending on staff expertise and interests, but indicative topics include:

1. Theoretical Perspectives on Organised Civil Society
2. Charity and the Makeshift Economy in Early Modern England
3. Charity and Scandal in Victorian England
4. The Modern Definition of a Charitable Purpose
5. The Public Benefit Requirement
6. Advocacy and Political Action
7. Regulation and Accountability
8. Global Civil Society

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- Understand the nature of the charitable trust and its distinctiveness from other legal concepts
- Locate and use primary and secondary sources of English and Commonwealth charity law
- Understand the relationship between legal, social, political and economic influences upon the nature and functions of charities in different historical and contemporary contexts
- Understand the scope of the wider third sector and nature and regulation of CSOs beyond the charity model
- Have a critical awareness of contemporary theories of organised civil society

## **Indicative reading list**

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

## **Research element**

Students will conduct research into legal cases, academic literature and other source material required for analysis of the topics covered within the module

## **Interdisciplinary**

The module draws heavily on the historical, sociological, political and economic literature on charities and organised civil society.

## **International**

Some comparison of and reference to other legal jurisdictions is made within the module.

## **Subject specific skills**

Analysis of factual situations and critical evaluation of issues identified by means of (a)

independent judgement; (b) synthesis of other approaches derived from relevant literature and/or expertise

## Transferable skills

Problem solving  
Critical analysis  
Written and oral presentation

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	112 hours (75%)
Assessment	20 hours (13%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Guided and independent reading in preparation for seminars and the assessment.

### 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 A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Question Design + Critical Commentary	100%	20 hours	Yes (extension)

Students (a) design an essay question assessing the module's learning outcomes, (b) prompt genAI to create an answer to that question, and (c) provide a critical commentary of the genAI answer.

## Assessment group R1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Question Design + Critical Commentary	100%		Yes (extension)
Students (a) design an essay question assessing the module's learning outcomes, (b) prompt genAI to create an answer to that question, and (c) provide a critical commentary of the genAI answer.			

## Feedback on assessment

Students will be given detailed individual written feedback on their assessments.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law
  - Year 2 of M300 Law
  - Year 3 of M300 Law
- ULAA-M131 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
  - Year 2 of M131 Law (4 year)
  - Year 3 of M131 Law (4 year)
  - Year 4 of M131 Law (4 year)
- ULAA-M132 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
  - Year 2 of M132 Law (Year Abroad)
  - Year 4 of M132 Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M135 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
  - Year 3 of M135 Law and Sociology
  - Year 4 of M135 Law and Sociology
- ULAA-M133 Undergraduate Law with French Law
  - Year 2 of M133 Law with French Law
  - Year 4 of M133 Law with French Law
- ULAA-M134 Undergraduate Law with German Law
  - Year 2 of M134 Law with German Law
  - Year 4 of M134 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 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 V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law