

LA9G8-20 Artistic Practice in Contemporary Legal Contexts

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Andrea Wallace

Credit value

20

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Art, Cultural Management & Law (ArtCultLaw) is a course that examines how art interfaces with a breadth of legal areas, including but not limited to intellectual property law, cultural heritage law, contract law, criminal law and human rights.

Through various sources, both traditional and alternative, students will explore how the law and its intersecting components function (or dysfunction) during the generation and management of cultural content, including in online environments. The reading list includes films and documentaries, online articles and exhibitions, case law and scholarly commentary on emerging issues in this rapidly-changing area. Through innovative teaching and assessment methods, students will develop and strengthen their capacity for analytical, critical, and imaginative thinking, which are essential skills for effective and argumentation, legal or otherwise.

Students are not required to have prior knowledge of art or law for this module, which is suitable for specialist and non-specialist students and will be particularly useful for students interested in developing an interdisciplinary and practice led approach to studies.

Module aims

- To provide students with the opportunity to explore the rich relationship between various areas of law through art and its management, thereby deepening their understanding of the intersections of legal areas in general and especially its impact on cultural and social development
- To understand relationships between art, cultural management and law and the constitutive role of law in the creation and management of creative works and its transformations brought about through digitization
- To provide interdisciplinary learning opportunities by exploring creative processes as methods for research-led argumentation in written, visual and oral forms
- To explore legal, ethical and cultural debates around the art, creativity and cultural management, discussing the real-world impacts emerging topics such as 'AI' and Indigenous Data Governance

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.

While the module's precise content will vary from year to year, the syllabus will cover some or all of the following topics:

- Introduction to Art and Law
- Access to Material Culture
- Access to Digital Culture
- Museums and Decolonization
- Art, Copying and Appropriation
- Colonial Statues and Monuments and the 'Culture Wars'
- Art and Criminal Law
- Art and Performance

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate coherent, nuanced and advanced understanding of the relationship between law and cultural production.
- Think critically and creatively about the production of artistic and creative outputs while exercising critical thinking, judgment and analysis on the assumptions and aspirations of law
- Undertake research that draws from a wide range of sources to develop an argument in visual, written and oral form, through the production of a creative work
- Manage time independently and efficiently in preparing for learning activities, to be proactive in learning development, and to work independently within a limited time frame to complete a specified task

Indicative reading list

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

Research element

Students undertake self-led research on a topic of their choice to produce an evidence-based argument in the form of a creative work and a reflective commentary. Students will engage with primary sources, such as legislation and case law, as well as secondary sources in the fields of art, visual culture and law. They will apply legal and creative research methods to articulate the tension at the heart of their creative work. This research-led approach facilitates student autonomy in choosing the topic while fostering analytical rigour, visual and information literacy, and independent inquiry into the topic of their choosing.

Interdisciplinary

The module brings together arts-based pedagogy and production methods with legal studies and analysis to explore how legal issues influence, or are influenced by, the arts.

International

The module includes an international dimension by examining digital aspects of cultural production and management that present cross-border issues to the circulation of art and cultural heritage, particularly in digital form.

Subject specific skills

The application of various legal areas to art concepts and objects, cultural heritage management, and the interpretation of various legal and policy frameworks as applied to art and the management of cultural and creative products. Legal analysis of topics such as copyright law, free expression, criminal law, Indigenous rights, performer's rights, contracts, collections management, digital rights management, and intellectual property restitution.

In lectures and seminars, we also engage with the readings and related artworks through critique. A critique is an oral or written discussion strategy used to describe, analyze, and interpret creative works. It is an intellectually-engaging exploration of visual effects and argumentation, meaning, purpose, and new ideas. We will critique creative works as a group and the legal arguments that they make. Critiques will help students develop your persuasive oral and written, information-gathering, communication, presentation, and justification skills. They also facilitate group discussion around argumentation made in visual rather than literal form. Finally, critiques are positive spaces. They invite commentary and suggestions from others in the form of open-ended questions in a way that helps the creator hone in on their argument and better understand their internal processes.

Transferable skills

Conducting original independent research and producing sound and evidence-based work in support of an argument. Communicating complex and nuanced topics through visual, oral and written strategies. Critically assessing competing legal and cultural interests to offer commentary

on emerging issues of global importance. Teamwork and collaboration through seminar-based group activities and discussions. Problem solving and critical thinking as applied to the production of a creative work on an issue of the student's choice. The ability to analyse and critique arguments made in visual, oral and written forms.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (9%)
Seminars	4 sessions of 3 hours (6%)
Private study	80 hours (40%)
Assessment	90 hours (45%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

In addition to preparation for the lectures, students are tasked with conducting original independent research and producing a creative work and reflective commentary for the summative assessment. In the process, students will gain critical thinking and analytical skills across multiple disciplines relevant to a particular project, as well as academic and practical research methods.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Reflective Commentary	50%	40 hours	Yes (extension)
This assessment includes a creative work in any form and a reflective commentary (i.e., written			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
critique) of no more than 1,000 words. Each part is worth one-half of the overall mark.			
The reflective commentary should demonstrate the research undertaken, advance your argument, and reflect on how you engaged with it through visual argumentation. This might include a short framing of the issue, your process and exploration, a discussion of the materials selected, the visual or conceptual elements and their relevance, and so on. It should be analysis focused, referenced, and supported similar to any essay you write.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Creative Work	50%	50 hours	No
The creative work can engage with any issue of interest related to either module or one explored in another module. You get to pick. This is your research project. What interests you? Consider how you can engage with your topic in a way that requires additional research, reflection, and makes an argument, similar to the various examples we will discuss in lectures and seminars.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Students will receive individual written feedback on the formative and summative assessment. Students will be able to speak with the module convenor about any follow-on queries during office hours, in addition to via email.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

- Year 1 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies
- Year 3 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies