

Module specification

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Module Code	LAW401/LAW401D
Module Title	Public Law: Constitutional and Administrative Law
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100485
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
LLB (Hons) Law	Core
BA (Hons) Law and Criminal Justice	Core
BA (Hons) Law and Business	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	May 2021
With effect from date	September 2021



For office use only	
Date and details of revision	January 2022 included BA (Hons) Law and Business in programme titles July 2024 – Minor change to LO3, LO4, updated assessment strategy and Syllabus, with implementation from Sept 2024.
Version number	3

Module aims

The aim of this module is to provide students with an understanding of the key institutions, principles and theories underpinning constitutional arrangements in the United Kingdom and the devolved nations and how human rights are protected.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Explain the nature and purpose of constitutions including the ways in which governmental powers are allocated in the UK; institutions of the state; and the way in which courts operate to review administrative action and protect basic rights.
2	Explain the key foundational principles and theories underpinning constitutional and human rights law and practice in the UK and the factors (legal, historical, theoretical, political and practical) which shape the UK's 'constitution'.
3	Demonstrate understanding of the legal and conventional constraints on government in the UK (including judicial review and other administrative law remedies).
4	Analyse the extent and limits of Government power and of key judgements related to Human Rights protections.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Essay (2500 words)

Students are required to complete a 2500-word essay. This will require students to demonstrate an understanding of the nature and structure of constitutionalism in the UK and to comment on how power is allocated and used in the UK constitutional context.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1 - 4	Written Assignment	100



Derogations

PSRB requirement for LLB Law only:

The minimum pass mark for all LLB foundations of legal knowledge (FLK) subjects is 40%. Compensation is only permitted for a maximum of one module across the whole programme for a marginal fail (35-39) covering FLK subjects. (applies to LAW401D, LAW402D, LAW403D, LAW404, LAW502D, SOC575D, LAW601D, LAW603D)

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy is grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active, and include synchronous and a-synchronous elements. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by online lectures wherein students will be expected to complete activities such as watching Panopto videos; undertake additional reading; complete quizzes and exercises; and post comment for a-synchronous debate. These activities will be the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Added to this, will be access to staff who provide presence, challenge and support for student learning and can relate learning to real world uses.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- What is a Constitution?
- Constitutional conventions.
- Constitutionalism: history, theories, principles and contemporary significance.
- Rule of Law/Separation of Powers.
- Sovereignty of Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Monarch and Prerogative.
- Models of Government at national, local and supra-national levels.
- Parliament: Election, Composition and Power
- Parliamentary privilege
- Institutions of Government at UK and devolved levels
- Delegated legislation
- Civil Liberties and Human Rights – history and contemporary significance.
- The scope of governmental authority and its limits.
- Judicial review and other forms of citizen redress.
- Human Rights Act 1998 Liberty and Police Powers
- Liability of public bodies
- Administrative law: judicial review; tribunals and inquiries

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Bradley, A.W., Ewing, K.D. and Knight, C (2018) *Constitutional and Administrative Law* (17th edition). Pearson Education.

Other indicative reading

Barnett, H. (2018) *Constitutional and Administrative Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Elliott, M and Thomas, R. (2017) *Public Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fenwick, H., Phillipson, G and Williams, A. (2020). *Text, Cases and Materials on Public Law and Human Rights*. London: Routledge.

Le Sueur, A., Sunkin, M and Murkens J. (2019) *Public Law: Text, Cases and Materials* 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Students will be expected to consult a range of law journals and selected e-journals from WestLaw with a view to developing appropriate legal research skills and to access important supplementary readings in preparation for assessments.

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and degree programme are designed to support learners as they develop their graduate skills aligned to the University Skills Framework.

Using the philosophies of the Active Learning Framework (ALF) our 10 skills are embedded within programmes complementing core academic subject knowledge and understanding.

Through continuous self-assessment students own their individual skills journey and enhance their employability and career prospects.

This Module forms part of a degree programme that has been mapped against the University Skills Framework.

The Wrexham University Skills Framework Level Descriptors: An incremental and progressive approach.

Learners can use this document to identify where and how they are building skills and how they can develop examples of their success.