

Module specification

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Module Code	LAW501
Module Title	Legal Skills, Ethics and Professional Standards
Level	5
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	30 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	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	May 2021
With effect from date	September 2022

For office use only	
Date and details of revision	January 2022 included BA (Hons) Law and Business in programme titles December 2024 – updated assessment strategy with immediate implementation
Version number	3

Module aims

To develop students' legal skills and their abilities to understand and navigate the contextual, moral, ethical and professional backdrop of legal practice in England and Wales.

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

1	Identify and demonstrate the key legal skills of interviewing; advocacy; mediation and persuading
2	Critically explore the nature of professionalism, and the ethical and professional frameworks to resolve dilemmas and manage the relationship between the individual legal practitioner, their client, the legal profession, and the legal system in England and Wales
3	Identify ethical issues that can arise in legal practice and show awareness of how these might be interpreted in light of their own individual values and ethical priorities

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.

Students will be assessed individually on their preparation and performance in a legal debate, otherwise known as a 'moot'. Students will be given a legal question in advance of the debate and will be assigned as either 'appellant' or 'respondent'. Students will be required to prepare arguments in advance of the debate and will present those arguments during the debate. Students will be required to respond to arguments made by the opposing team and may also be required to answer questions from the first and/or second marker.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1 - 3	Practical	100%

Derogations

None



Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching is facilitated alternately in whole group and then a small group learning sets. As a cohort, students will receive a formal input on a key legal skill (interviewing; advocacy; mediation; mooting; ethics) and then be directed towards additional reading/exemplar videos and to consider a particular case study/legal encounter. In the subsequent week, in a small group, they will demonstrate the skills in a short, recorded, 10 minute simulated encounter and receive feedback on the recording from their small group peers.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Interviewing

Advocacy

Mediation

Persuading

Mooting Client

service

The Legal Profession – history, organisation, and regulation Professions and Professionalism

Theories of Normative

Ethics Role-Differentiated

Ethics

Duties to Clients: Competence,

Care Duties to Clients:

Confidentiality Duties to Clients:

Conflicts of Interest Duties to Court
and others

Duties to the community: legal services and pro bono work

Fee structures

Legislative Reform, changes to the legal profession; profession or business; "alternative business structures"/ "multidisciplinary practices"

SQA; SQE

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Finch, E and Fafinski, S. (2019) *Legal Skills*. Oxford; Oxford University Press
Herring, J. (2017) *Legal Ethics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Holland, J.A and Webb, J.S. (2016) *Learning Legal Rules: A Student's Guide to Legal Method and Reasoning*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Other indicative reading

Embley, J., Goodchild, P., Shepherd, C and Slorach, S (2020) *Legal Systems and Skills: Learn, Develop, Apply*. 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.

