

## Module specification

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**Refer to the module guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Module code   | BUS4A10  |
| Module title  | Business and Corporate Law   |
| Level         | 4  |
| Credit value  | 30   |
| Faculty       | Glyndwr University: Faculty of Social and Life Sciences<br>Bloomsbury Institute: School of Business and Accounting |
| Module Leader | Dr Joe Stevens   |
| HECoS Code    | 100105 (Accounting)<br>100107 (Finance)  |
| Cost Code     | GAMG   |

### Programmes in which module to be offered

| Programme title                 | Is the module core or option for this programme |
|---------------------------------|---|
| BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance | Core  |

### Pre-requisites

None

### Breakdown of module hours

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Learning and teaching hours  | 66 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          |
| <b>Total active learning and teaching hours</b>                      | <b>66 hrs</b>  |
| Placement / work based learning                                      | 0 hrs          |
| Guided independent study   | 234 hrs        |
| <b>Module duration (total hours)</b>                                 | <b>300 hrs</b> |

| For office use only   |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Initial approval date | 8 April 2022 |

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>For office use only</b>   |           |
| With effect from date        | June 2022 |
| Date and details of revision |           |
| Version number               | 1         |

## Module aims

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental principles of law and ethics relating to business transactions and commercial entities, and the main concepts of corporate law and the different types of business organisations. Students are introduced to the English law. Students will be provided with an understanding of the basic principles of English contract law and the circumstances leading to the formation of a contract. The module will examine contractual terms, consumer rights, misrepresentation, breach of contract and remedies. The module will additionally cover the law of tort and focus on the law of negligence. The differences between public and private international law will be reviewed. There will be an introduction to alternative international legal systems. Students will also be introduced to the engagement of international law with international trade and the benefits of international regulations for commerce and professional practice.

Students will also be introduced to the nature and characteristics of sole tradership, partnership, limited liability partnership and corporate personality. The law of agency will be considered and how the same applies to partners and company directors. Students will be introduced to the main aspects of company law and the meaning and effect of limited liability. Students will further be introduced to the capital and financing of companies and in particular share capital, loan capital and capital maintenance. The management, administration and regulation of a company will be considered and how these impact on the duties of directors and company meetings and resolutions. Students will also be introduced to the legal implications of corporate distress and the procedure engaged in a voluntary and compulsory liquidation. This module will also introduce students to employment law and the essential requirements of a contract of employment. In addition, students will be introduced to the law on termination including wrongful dismissal, unfair dismissal and redundancy. The law on discrimination and health and safety in the workplace will additionally be examined. Finally, this module will provide students with an understanding of the legal aspects of corporate governance. Students will also be enabled to understand the concepts of fraudulent and wrongful trading, bribery and money laundering as well as applicable sanctions for default.

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Identify the main sources of law and essential elements of the legal system.  |
| 2 | Apply relevant legal rules relating to the law of obligations and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the legal implications governing insolvency law and corporate fraudulent and criminal behaviour. |
| 3 | Differentiate between alternative forms and constitutions of business organisations.  |
| 4 | Describe the legal requirements for the formation, constitution, management, and administration and the methods of financing each of the most common forms of business.                                       |

## Assessment

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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.

| Assessment number | Learning Outcomes to be met | Type of assessment | Weighting (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1                 | 1& 3                        | Written Assignment | 40%           |
| 2                 | 2 & 4                       | Examination        | 60%           |

Assessment 1 – Summative written assignment: (individual submission)

Students are given a question which may be a single essay type question or a problem-based question. The assignment should be about 1,500 words in length. The assignment is intended to engage students in individual reading and research on the material areas of the question. This also allows the student to improve written, communication and presentation skills. It also enables the student to build on problem solving and critical reasoning. Further, it allows the student to engage the learning process in a self-reflecting manner.

Assessment 2 - Final Examination (individual submission)

This summative assessment is an unseen three-hour closed book final examination and builds on all the skills stated by the learning outcomes, especially, reasoning, assessing and appraising, synthesising, examining and evaluating the relevant issues and areas of law as may be appropriate. It allows the student to display not merely the knowledge of business and corporate law but the ability to contextually apply the law in given scenarios or situations.

## Derogations

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None

## Learning and Teaching Strategies

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**Lectures** provide a broad outline structure for each topic to be covered. Lectures offer a good way of covering a lot of information and, more importantly, of conveying ideas to many people at once.

**Seminars** enable students to undertake directed self-study and to answer questions and solve problems which are set by the lecturer. Students will present their answers and solutions within the seminar group. Seminars enable students to explore further the topics introduced in the lectures.

**Workshops** follow on from lectures and seminars. They are designed to enable students to work within a small group to perform set tasks (e.g. working on an exercise or case study). They reinforce proactive learning by providing opportunities for discussion and interaction.

The seminar/workshop groups are small, thereby enabling students to develop a deep understanding.

**Student digital literacies** are developed on this module through the use of:

- Online libraries and databases for gaining access to full-text journal articles and eBooks.
- Communication means provided through the VLE and learning technology applications.
- Online group-work, for planning, developing, improving, submitting and reflecting on collaborative work completed as part of the module.
- Assessment and feedback tools such as Multiple-Choice Tests/Quizzes, Turnitin and the VLE's Gradebook – enabling timely and detailed feedback on student work.
- Web-based Office 365 for creating and sharing documents, utilising the calendar, storing files, communicating with peers and teachers.

## Indicative Syllabus Outline

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Introduction to the essential elements of the English legal system, including the court system and the sources of law

Basic principles of the law of obligation: offer, acceptance, consideration, certainty, intention to create legal relations, form, contractual terms, breach of contract and remedies

The law of tort and concepts of professional negligence: the basic concepts of negligence with special reference to professional advice, product liability, breach of statutory duty, strict liability, defences, vicarious liability, remedies

Employment law: contract of employment, terms, dismissal, and redundancy

The formations and constitution of business organisations: legal relationships between the parties to agency agreements with special reference to the authority of persons to act on behalf of others, particularly in companies and partnerships

Company law: corporate personality, types of company, formation, share capital, loan capital, distribution of profits, directors, company secretary, auditors, company meetings, shareholders' rights

Management of companies: directors, company officers, company meetings and resolutions

## Indicative Bibliography:

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

### Essential Reads

Ewan MacIntyre, (2018). Business Law, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Pearson, ISBN-13: 9781292219950

### Other indicative reading

Lucy Jones, (2019). Introduction to Business Law 5th edition, OUP.

Gwyneth Pitt, (2020) Employment Law 11th edition, Sweet & Maxwell.

Alan Dignam and John Lowry, (2020) Company Law (Core Texts Series) 11th edition, OUP.

Riches, S. And Allen, V. (2013) Keenan and Riches' Business Law, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson Publishing.

## **Recommended websites**

Westlaw legal database <<http://legalresearch.westlaw.co.uk/>>

## **Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate**

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Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

### **Core Attributes**

Engaged  
Enterprising  
Ethical

### **Key Attitudes**

Commitment  
Curiosity  
Resilience  
Confidence  
Adaptability

### **Practical Skillsets**

Organisation  
Critical Thinking  
Emotional Intelligence  
Communication