Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008562	**Version:** 7 **Date Amended:** 03/Nov/2025

1. Module Title
Criminal Law

2a. Module Leader
Elina Konstantinidou

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You'll gain the knowledge and understanding of the core principles and rules of criminal law, concentrating on the principles of criminal liability relating to a range of criminal offences and specific defences. You'll examine and analyse case studies to understand the relevant legislation and case law in relation to the offence and identify the lines of defence. By analysing these case scenarios, you'll identify key facts governing criminal liability and relate these to the applicable law, as well as evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each side's case.

The knowledge gained will help not only those interested in a career in the criminal justice system but also those interested in careers in non-governmental organisations (e.g. charitable organisations). You'll become familiar with the key organisations, and their personnel and responsibilities, such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office and other organisations in the non-governmental sector.

As this module fulfils part of the seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge, in alignment with the Bar Standards Board's requirement compensation is not permitted for this module.

6b. Outline Content

- Functions and nature of the criminal law
- Objectives of punishment (outline)
- General Principles of Criminal Law: Actus reus, mens rea, voluntariness, causation, strict liability
- Homicides
- Non-fatal offences against the person
- Sexual offences (selected aspects)
- Offences against property: criminal damage, theft and fraud offences, burglary, robbery.
- Inchoate offences
- Liability for others: accessories; - vicarious and corporate liability (in outline)
- Defences, special defences, incapacitating conditions
- The implications of the Human Rights Act 1998, as appropriate

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of criminal law, including an appreciation of the impact of the European Convention on Human rights upon domestic criminal law
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify and summarise relevant legal materials relating to criminal law, recognising different perspectives and beginning to analyse areas of uncertainty and ambiguity in legal content;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply basic legal understanding to straightforward scenarios, outlining reasoned solutions that reflect core legal principles and simple practical implications;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate legal information and arguments with basic structure and clarity, demonstrating clear expression and accurate use of academic conventions, including introductory OSCOLA referencing and bibliography;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify individual strengths, areas for improvement, and describe the influence of one's actions on outcomes, demonstrating emerging self-awareness, and the ability to recognise insights for future academic or professional contexts;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify a research topic for law reform with guidance, and outline its relevance and suitability for academic investigation.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	47.5	1-6	2 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 2 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 2 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	252.5	1-6	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Component 010_1 Assessed Piece to support skills for main assessment (max 500 words) Component 010_2 Problem questions (up to 3000 words) relating to the application of criminal law to scenarios Compensation is not permitted for this module.

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
010/1	Assessed Piece to support skills for main assessment (max 500 words)	Canvas	20 (%)	All
010/2	Problem questions (up to 3000 words)	Canvas	80 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]