Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008573	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 24/Feb/2022

1. Module Title
Criminal Litigation

2a. Module Leader
Jane Martin

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You'll cover basic law and procedures involved in acting in a criminal case. You'll look at interviewing a client and taking instructions in relation to a criminal charge. Your work will be based on a case study, starting with the arrest of a client and continuing through caution, practice and procedure in the police station and the test for charging. This will include police powers of arrest and search and the rights of the person detained in the police station. You'll cover the professional conduct aspects of attending at the police station and of conducting the case to its conclusion, as well as costs and funding. Post charge, you'll cover the first court appearance, including bail and pleas, before moving on to taking further instructions, building a defence case, practical application of evidence and trial venue, followed by summary trial. As a hands-on practical module, you'll work on your interviewing, negotiation and drafting skills to think practically and commercially, having a regard for the reality of cost effective criminal defence work.

6b. Outline Content

- Students need to understand how to analyse the component parts of a criminal charge and what the prosecution must prove in respect of each element to justify charging. They must similarly be able to weigh the strength of the evidence and advise as to the prospect of conviction.
- Students have to be able to understand and complete all the relevant practical and procedural steps in a criminal matter in relation to a guilty or not guilty plea
- Police Powers of arrest and search
- Cautions
- Police powers and duties at the police station
- Detained persons rights at the police station
- Taking instructions and funding
- Criminal Procedure Rules
- Full Code Test for charging
- First appearance at the Magistrates Court
- Bail
- Article 6, ECHR
- Practical evidence
- Disclosure and defence statements
- Procedure at trial
- Plea in mitigation

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
The following websites are important: Court Service website - www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/ Ministry of Justice website - www.justice.gov.uk/ Magistrates Court Sentencing Guidelines www.jsb.co.uk Legal Services Commission www.legalservices.gov.uk

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	Critically evaluate how legal rules, doctrines, institutions, and processes in criminal litigation (including the Magistrates' Courts) interrelate within and across complex social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts in balancing societal interests;
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically evaluate and synthesise legal materials relating to criminal litigation (including the Magistrates' Courts), addressing complex legal uncertainty and justifying interpretations of competing views and approaches;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Strategically apply and evaluate legal understanding to complex or ambiguous scenarios, and develop sophisticated solutions that integrate legal reasoning with practical, ethical, and policy implications;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate complex legal arguments persuasively and precisely, using critically informed structure and expression, and consistently adhering to professional standards, including accurate and comprehensive use of OSCOLA referencing and bibliography.

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	25.5	1-4	1 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 1 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 1 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	124.5	1-4	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
TOTAL:	150		

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	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Coursework: Up to 3000 words.

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]