



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

School of Law  
and Social Justice

**LAW**

**DIRECT ENTRY  
FINAL YEAR MODULE  
SELECTION 2024-25**

Information provided is correct at the time of publication and is subject to change.

## Introduction from Professor Helen Stalford

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all to Liverpool! Our international students make such an enormous and important contribution to the learning culture of the Law School and we hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to enrich your academic and life experience over the next year.



This guide includes details of all the modules you may select in the third year. These include, as you will see, popular modules you would expect to see in a Law programme, such as Company Law, IP Law, Commercial Law, Family Law and Human Rights Law, alongside specialised options considering Artificial Intelligence and Privacy Surveillance and the Law of Social Media. All of our modules are taught by leading experts in the field, and informed by cutting edge research, much of which, as our name suggests, is approached through the lens of social justice. We also have one of the biggest and most established University Law Clinics in the UK which offers a range of opportunities to enhance your skills as an aspiring legal practitioner, enabling you to work on real life client cases or legal practice projects. All of these modules are assessed through a range of innovative methods – including oral debates, coursework assignments, online multiple-choice tests, unseen exams, and a module portfolio - to ensure that you emerge from your degree as a well-rounded and skilled graduate with excellent employment prospects. We also offer a range of work experience opportunities, some of which are external placements incorporated into specific modules and some of which are voluntary and extra-curricular. We engage closely with local and London Law firms too, as well as charities, barristers chambers, and other bodies who provide professional mentoring and inspiring careers advice as part of our Law Extra series.

We are lucky to be closely associated with the University of Law (a specialist provider offering post-graduate training for those wishing to practise law as a solicitor or barrister). The University of Law is hosted in the School of Law and Social Justice building, enabling you to stay on after your undergraduate degree to pursue your post-graduate legal training in the same place. This includes an opportunity to study on the Bar Practice Course (BPC).

Finally, you will have the chance to participate in a vast range of research events and paid internships organised by our academics and research clusters, offering unique, critical insights into ongoing developments in the law ranging from women's rights, children's rights, public health, medical ethics, criminal justice, EU law, international human rights and public law.

We understand that moving away for a year to an entirely new city and culture can be a daunting prospect, but we will do all we can to make this one of the most enriching, enabling experiences of your life.



Professor Helen Stalford (Head of Law, School of the Law and Social Justice)



## Your Time at Liverpool Law School

Whether you commence studies with us in person at the Liverpool campus or online from Malaysia, you will follow the same basic pattern below, and you will have a choice of either 4 or 6 optional modules to choose from. A description of Equity & Trusts is provided below. The optional modules running in 2024-25 are provided from page 4 onwards, split by semester of study.

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Students are required to study 4 modules (60 credits):	Students are required to study 4 modules (60 credits):
1. <b>LAW311 Equity and Trusts (Mandatory + Pre-Registered)</b>	1. <b>Law311 Equity and Trusts – (Mandatory + Pre-Registered)</b>
2. <b>LAW310 Law of the European Union (30 credits)</b> (Strongly Recommended but compulsory if you wish to study for the UK Bar) <b>Or</b> <b>Other Optional Module (15 credits)</b>	2. <b>LAW310 Law of the European Union (30 credits)</b> (Strongly Recommended but compulsory if you wish to study for the UK Bar) <b>Or</b> <b>Other Optional Module (15 credits)</b>
3. <b>Optional Module (15 credits)</b>	3. <b>Optional Module (15 credits)</b>
4. <b>Optional Module (15 credits)</b>	4. <b>Optional Module (15 credits)</b>

### LAW 311: Equity & Trusts (Mandatory Module)

30 Credits | Whole Session

'Equity' has a language of its own and is a complete system of law, which supplements the common law and originally existed as a separate area of law, administered in a separate Court of Chancery. It contains important concepts, which underpin modern day life, such as the separation of property ownership into nominal (legal) and beneficial (equitable) through the concept of the 'trust', as well as many remedies, such as injunctions and specific performance. There is an emphasis on the contemporary social and fiscal significance of the trust mechanism, for example in resolving disputes over the family home. The module also explores the regulation of charitable trusts which is a research specialism within the school.

**Module Leaders:** **Dr Sarah Singh** (sarah.singh@liverpool.ac.uk) & **Dr Emily Ireland** (emily.ireland@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** **90% open book seen exam + 10% MCQ exercise**

# Semester 1 Optional Module Choices

## **LAW 383: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Services**

15 Credits | Semester 1

*Pre-requisites: LAW105, LAW107 and LAW209*

*Please note that you should not select any other placement, project, or clinic module in semester 1 if you elect to take LAW383.*

LAW383 was developed in collaboration with Weightmans solicitors (Law Firm of the Year — Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards 2024) and IBM. The module is currently supported by a number of additional major UK law firms that have demonstrated a leading role in the development of artificial intelligence-based solutions that can tackle legal problems and complete tasks that formerly only human lawyers could do. In 2021 the LAW383 module was recognised by LawtechUK (a Ministry of Justice backed initiative) as a contributor to 'Technology awareness and capability' within the UK legal sector.

The module will examine: the theory of innovation in law and how lawyers can 'design' new solutions that had never been imagined before; the topic of 'AI and Law' and precisely which legal problems AI can solve and which it cannot; and ethical issues that the justice system must tackle as it explores the value of promoting advanced digital technologies to solve legal problems in the real world. During the first 6 weeks of the course you will take part in intense team-based training and project work during which you will discover what 'Legal AI' can do. During the final 6 weeks of the course, you will begin examining key ethical questions about what 'Legal AI' should and should not do.

The course requires you to complete training in an enterprise-level artificial intelligence software application, but no prior knowledge of technology or AI is required. The course will require you to demonstrate the skills, attributes and commitment necessary to take part in a sustained team-work project.

You should be aware that you will be assessed by a team presentation and a short individual essay, each of which is worth 50% of the overall module mark.

Former LAW383 students have gone on to begin successful careers in a number of emerging legal and professional roles that focus on the use of artificial intelligence, including graduate legal innovation programme roles, training contracts, finance roles, and roles supporting new 'legal tech' start-up businesses.

**Module Leader: Mr Jeremy Marshall** (J.Marshall@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Presentation (50%) + Coursework (50%)**

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## **LAW 335: Immigration and Asylum Law**

*Pre-requisite: LAW210 OR Co-requisite: LAW310*

**15 Credits | Semester 1**

This course considers the way in which borders operate and how the law treats asylum seekers, refugees and migrants living in the UK. You will learn about the core concepts of immigration law (e.g. the relevant international, regional and domestic frameworks; the rules, procedures and practices that determine the admission of immigrants and refugees; and, the role of EU and international human rights law in regulating the area), as well as appreciating legal and political debates which surround immigration and asylum law and policy. We will encourage you to take a critical perspective of the law in the area, so you will learn not only about systems of immigration control, but also how these systems impact the individuals who navigate them as migrants. Likely topics of study include the legal regulation of borders, migration for work/business/study, refugee law and the legal framework around trafficking.

**Module Leader: Dr Anne Neylon** (aneylon@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Two MCQ Exercises (5% each, 10% total) and Coursework (90%)**

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## **LAW 029: Company Law**

*Pre-requisites: LAW105 and LAW211*

**15 Credits | Semester 1**

Company Law aims to give students an understanding of certain fundamental aspects of Company Law including the regulation of companies, the effect of separate legal entity, duties of directors and minority shareholder. At the same time the module will introduce students to some of the more essential, topical and developing areas of Company Law which have a national/international impact, including the recent reforms under the Companies Act 2006. This is a useful specialty option for students interesting in corporate careers.

**Module Leader: Prof Anu Arora** (Arora@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: MCQ Exercise (10%) + Coursework (90%)**

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## LAW 318: Commercial Law

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module explores fundamental issues in Commercial Law with a particular focus upon Sale of Goods and the Law of Agency. Students will be introduced to certain key areas of importance, including legal issues stemming from the passing of property and title in sale transactions; implied terms within sale contracts and the role of agents in Commercial Law. Teaching and learning uses a 'blended learning' approach - the module utilises recorded materials, seminars, and e-learning strategies to guide the student through a complex area of law. Recorded materials focus on the delivery of key information and fundamental principles supported by drop-in sessions throughout the semester. Building on this acquired knowledge, seminars will focus upon the application of those fundamental principles to complex factual scenarios and advanced legal problems. Post-seminar podcasts and follow-up exercises will serve to offer feedback on the performance of the cohort as a whole, nurture advanced understanding and also guide further work. Commercial Law is a very lucrative and popular area of legal practice, and this is a useful speciality option for students interesting in corporate and commercial careers.

**Module Leader: Prof Rob Stokes** (R.Stokes@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Open Book Seen Online Exam (95%) + Online Problem-Solving Exercise (5%)**

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## LAW 051: Medical Law and Ethics I

15 Credits | Semester 1

In this module we examine fundamental components of the law's regulation of the doctor-patient relationship, in particular 'medical negligence' claims – a specialist application of the tort of negligence in cases where medical error occurs, usually in the course of diagnosis, treatment or advice/information, and causes a recognised 'harm'. We also explore legal limits to medical treatment decisions, such as the extent to which patients have the right to make their own treatment decisions, and, in cases where a patient may lack the ability to make these decisions for themselves, the application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Who decides in these cases whether the patient should be given life-saving surgery or when life sustaining ventilation should stop? – doctors, the family or the Court of Protection? And how are the patient's rights and interests safeguarded when decisions are taken 'for' them? The patient, whose treatment must be determined, is recognised as being vulnerable – a vulnerability rooted in the imbalance of power in doctor-patient relationships, but also in the patient being unwell or anxious about their health. As we survey the legal frameworks which regulate treatment decisions we observe shifts in medical law jurisprudence, from forms of paternalism (or 'doctor knows best') to increased emphasis of 'rights based' and social justice informed models.

**Module Leader: Prof Marie Mox** (Marie.Fox@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Open Book Seen Online Exam (100%)**

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## **LAW 329: Legal History**

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module provides a historical account of key 'flashpoints' in the development of the English common law. It is designed to provide important context to modern legal understanding and to encourage critical analysis of the law's impartiality. The topics covered map directly onto topics covered in a traditional law degree. On a journey that encompasses the bloody origins of criminal law, the status of enslaved Africans during the eighteenth century, the utility of trusts to married women before the late nineteenth-century, and the plight of indigenous peoples under colonialism and the doctrine of terra nullius, this module takes a socio-legal, intersectional approach to the study of legal history, bringing the stories of the subordinated to the fore in order to demonstrate the longstanding nature of inequality in the legal system. Through a series of lectures and guided workshops, students will gain knowledge of important legal incidents, and conduct their own historical enquiry. Students will learn how to identify primary legal sources using digital databases and critically analyse them in broader socio-legal context.

**Module Leader: Dr Emily Ireland** (Emily.ireland@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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## **LAW 308: International Human Rights Law**

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module will introduce you to the field of international human rights law. The course will provide you with an overview of the historical and philosophical foundations of human rights, various substantive rights that are protected through universal and regional instruments, as well as providing a general introduction to the international mechanisms for human rights protection and promotion. The course aims to provide the student with both substantive and procedural knowledge of human rights protection, as well as knowledge and understanding of some of the key contemporary challenges in international human rights law.

**Module Leader: Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley** (A.Cahill-Ripley@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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## LAW 332: Jurisprudence

15 Credits | Semester 1

Jurisprudence aims to give students an understanding of the basic problems of legal theory: what is law? Why do we obey it? How is law related to morality? Is an unjust law really a law? How should judges decide cases? At the same time the module will introduce students to the work of some of the most important modern legal theorists, in particular H.L.A. Hart, Finnis, Catherine MacKinnon and Thomas Berry. Students will also consider some of the crucial concerns of contemporary legal philosophy. Jurisprudence is taught in through weekly 1 hour lectures, and longer fortnightly seminars. This maximises the time available for discussion and evaluation of the reading assignment, in both smaller sub-groups and the class as whole, which is the most interesting and effective way of gaining an appreciation of legal philosophy. Students will produce a formative (non-assessed) group presentation on a topic of their choice in the second half of the module. The module is assessed through one piece of coursework (3,000 words).

Jurisprudence provides an opportunity for reflection on the philosophical foundations of law, and should appeal to students who are interested in understanding more about the essential nature of legal systems and legal practice.

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Katy Sowery (dzeh@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (100%)

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## LAW 316: Family Law

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module provides students with an introduction to key aspects of family law in England and Wales. Students will critically explore the legal family through a detailed examination of legal parenthood, parental responsibility and child arrangements and the legal regulation of marriage and civil partnerships in the light of human rights norms and recent reforms. We will also explore the legal requirements for divorce and how the courts divide family assets in light of the gendered division of labour within the family. All of this will be grounded in a detailed review of the statutory framework, the relevant case law and academic commentary.

**Module Leader:** Prof Nicola Barker (Nicola.Barker@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** Open Book Exam (90%) + Participation Element (10%)

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## LAW 310: Law of the European Union I

30 Credits | Whole Session

This module introduces students to the constitutional and institutional law of the European Union. The focus is on building an understanding of how the EU came to be and how it has developed, which lays the foundations for analysis of the Union's institutions including their composition, their accountability and democratic legitimacy, and how they formulate EU legislation. The module then examines the Union's competence to pass such legislation and the extent to which principles, such as fundamental rights, operate as a constraint on the EU's rule-making power. Finally, the module explores how EU law applies in national legal systems: what happens if EU law and national law are in conflict or if a citizen wants to rely directly on EU law before national courts? Throughout the module, students are encouraged to think critically about the European integration process. The module also considers some areas of substantive Union law e.g., it examines the development of EU law relating to the free movement of goods, free movement of workers and free movement of economically inactive citizens (such as students and retired persons); explores doctrinal and policy problems as relevant to the three topics (above) under consideration.

***This module is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended for those students who may wish to study for the UK Bar.***

**Module Leaders:** Prof Michael Dougan ([mdougan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:mdougan@liverpool.ac.uk))

& Dr Andrew Woodhouse ([A.Woodhouse2@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:A.Woodhouse2@liverpool.ac.uk))

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (90%) + Reflective Response Semester 1 (5%) + Reflective Response Semester 2 (5%)

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## LAW 338: Intellectual Property Law I: Enforcement of IP Rights

15 Credits | Semester 1

Copyright legislation plays an important role in fostering cultural development as it provides an incentive for authors and the creative industries to produce creative works. The digital era and the corresponding internet age however pose great challenges to the system of copyright law, especially in relation to infringement of copyright works online. This module will introduce students to the main features of the copyright system and will focus on UK copyright law as amended by the relevant EU directives and international agreements. Topics to be covered will include the history and evolution of copyright, copyright's protected objects ('works') and subjects (authors, publishers and producers of works), the principles governing the ownership of copyright, and the nature and scope of the rights comprised in copyrights and the enforcement challenges arising from the emergence of sophisticated digital technologies

**Module Leader:** Dr Sujitha Subramanian ([Sujitha.Subramanian@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sujitha.Subramanian@liverpool.ac.uk))

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (90%) + MCQ Exercise (10%)

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## LAW 353: Principles of International Law

15 Credits | Semester 1

The module provides students with in-depth specialist knowledge of the principles and structure of international law. The module features discussions of some of today's most debated theoretical and practical international legal issues against the backdrop of multiple international, regional and domestic legal and policy frameworks. They include the evolving role of international law in international affairs, the forms of law making, the ever-increasing number of actors involved, the expansion of international adjudication, the creation of states, the various faces of sovereignty, the impact of international law on domestic systems, and the rules on the liability of states.

Each lecture addresses selected elements of these debates and the basic principles underpinning them. Examples of basic questions include: What is international law? Is international law really law? How did it develop as a body of rules separate from domestic law? What types of norms define the international legal order? What are the main international decision making processes and who are the actors involved? What are the manifestations of state sovereignty and how do states exercise sovereignty from the perspective of international law and relations? How does international law affect domestic law? What is the status of international law within domestic legal orders? How is international law enforced? Or when can states be held liable for their wrongful conduct?

**Module Leader: Dr Antal Berkes** (antal.berkes@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (90%) + Blog Post (10%)**

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## LAW 342: The Regulation of Emerging Technologies: Law, Ethics and Governance

15 Credits | Semester 1

LAW 342 equips students with a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies in finance, healthcare, and the legal profession. These technologies, such as blockchain, AI, gene editing, and legal software, have the potential to improve efficiency and access to services but also raise complex legal and ethical questions about investor protection, patient care, and the future of the legal profession.

The module focuses on the suitability of existing laws to maximise the benefits of these technologies while mitigating potential negative consequences. Students will gain insights into the rationale and purpose of regulation, drawing upon theoretical debates and policies implemented by various jurisdictions, particularly in the United Kingdom. Through independent research and the examination of diverse settings and targeted case examples, students will develop creative and critical thinking skills, gaining a deeper understanding of the role of legal rules and strategies in promoting responsible innovation and governance. The learning environment is designed to facilitate the acquisition and development of rigorous analytical and problem-solving skills, enabling students to critically engage with existing and emerging legal and ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies across diverse contexts.

**Module Coordinator: Joseph Savirimuthu** (jsaviri@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: MCQ Exercise (5%) and Coursework (95%)**

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## **LAW 349: Principles of Employment Law: Rights and Justice at Work** 15 Credits | Semester 1

Employment law governs the arrangements through which human labour may be bought and sold. The module is set in three parts: protection of work, protection of wages and protection of the worker. Students are introduced to a wide range of statutory employment rights and common law doctrines; exploring duties placed on employers, legal protections afforded to working people. The module highlights the social and political significance of employment law, including in the context of UK devolution. Content is research-led and foregrounds the promotion of public health as an urgent challenge for the regulation of work, as a benchmark by which the strengths and weaknesses of employment law can be assessed and as a compelling justification for legal reform. Teaching and learning is organised through a mix of in-person lectures, case classes, small group seminars, bespoke video content and academic literature.

**Module Coordinator: Prof Lydia Hayes** (Lydia.Hayes@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Video Presentation (50%) and Unseen Written Examination (50%)**

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## **LAW 034: Dissertation in Law** 15 Credits | Semester 1

Over the course of the first semester, students complete a 6000-word dissertation with the support of a supervisor. Formulating their own research questions, students gain experience of extended writing in an area of particular interest. The Dissertation Module allows students to develop their own research ideas with the support of their supervisor. They develop their own legal research interests, alongside their research skills. While the supervisor provides student support, independent research is at the core of the programme. Students will take full ownership of their projects. They will plan, research, review relevant legal literature, explore fundamental concepts, synthesise complex information, and finally, write up their research as a coherent dissertation.

**Module Coordinator: Dr Philip Burton** (Philip.burton@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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# Semester 2 Optional Module Choices

## **LAW 369: Public Interest Lawyering**

15 Credits | Semester 2

Please note that **LAW322 Clinic** and **LAW369 Placements** cannot be chosen together in **Semester 2**.

This module is an opportunity for you to gain an understanding and insight into issues relating to access to justice. You will undertake a placement in a public sector or non-profit organisation, develop skills and undertake tasks within a practical context, and apply academic knowledge from your degree. You will also develop your personal and employability skills within a working environment. This experience will develop understanding of access to justice issues and the importance of public interest law in a practical setting. The module is taught through a combination of seminars and work placement, and is assessed via a report on an access to justice issue (or issues) of your choice relevant to the placement.

**Module Leader: Dr James Organ** (James.Organ@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Participation Element (10%) + Essay Plan (5%) + Coursework (85%)**

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## **LAW 317: Banking Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

The Banking Law module's overall focus is on risk and threat's (both traditional and emerging) to the banking system. Specifically we will focus on the role law plays in addressing these challenges. Initially, we will look at how the Bank works with the HM Treasury to safeguard the banking sector from emerging and evolving risks, specific focus will be placed on its role as Lender of Last Resort. We will then go on to examine the Bank's response to the 2008 financial crisis, paying particular attention to the legal structures in place to help foresee and manage these threat's to the health of the economy. This will then followed by an examination of the banker and customer relationship, and the role the legal duties owed between the parties plays in reducing risk and uncertainty in terms of the everyday course of dealings between the bank and its customer. The module will then focus on the bank's Anti-Money Laundering obligations, we will consider the importance of the framework in reducing a bank's exposure to risk, but will also note the heavy burden on complying with it. Relatedly, we will then look at the banks role in the UK sanctions regime, thinking in particular of the developments in 2022 in relation to Russia, and question their success. Penultimately, we will look at cyberattacks on banks, the impact on customers, and ultimately the risk of bank failure – linking to some of the themes drawn out in our financial crisis lectures. Finally, we conclude the module with a look at crypto-banking, with a focus on the potential benefits and risks it presents to consumers, and how it may challenge the traditional banking system.

**Module Leader: Dr Matt Shillito** (M.Shillito@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (90%) + Blog Post (10%)**

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## **LAW 322: Clinical Legal Skills II (Law Clinic module)**

15 Credits | Semester 2

Please note that **LAW322 Clinic** and **LAW369 Placements** cannot be chosen together in **Semester 2**.

Clinical Legal Skills is a third year optional module based in the Liverpool Law Clinic. Learning on the module is experiential and you will work in small teams of 6 or 7 students. There is an emphasis on collaborative learning and problem solving throughout the module.

Most of your learning takes place through working with student teams assisting practicing lawyers to provide an advice service to members of the general public.

### Module Content

The legal content of the course will vary according to client problems and advice needs.

Your team will work with one case supervisor throughout the semester and will focus on one area of law. The area of law your team specialises in will depend on the expertise of your supervisor. We provide advice in three substantive areas of law, family law, immigration law and special educational needs.

Topics covered include, professional ethics and conduct, access to justice, practical legal research, reflective writing, interviewing skills, legal drafting, and case file management.

For your casework you need to research legal problems, prepare for interviews, attend client interviews, draft letters and other documents, manage files and to conduct independent research on access to justice relevant to the casework done in the Law Clinic.

### Teaching Structure

There are workshops of one hour each in the first five weeks of term to develop key skills needed to complete your casework and assessments.

There are three 2 hour lectures covering ethics, access to justice and preparing for assessment. We also have some tasks on Canvas such as a teaching guide on practical legal research and a practice interview.

There are weekly one hour tutorials throughout the term when you will meet with your case supervisor in small groups of 6 or 7 students to progress your cases and receive feedback on your work. Tutorial attendance is compulsory.

### Ethics and Clinic Procedures

Working in the Clinic means working on real cases for real clients. The clients that we advise are facing serious and difficult problems in their lives. In order to protect client data, students on the module must do all of their work on Clinic computers in Clinic rooms in the School of Law and Social Justice building.

Working with real cases can bring the law to life and the work you do in the Clinic can be very rewarding and stimulating, so please remember that the rules are there to help and protect you and to ensure that the Clinic is able to provide a professional service.

**Module Leader: Ms Lucy Yeatman** (lucy.yeatman@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Legal Writing (50%) + File Management (10%) + Critical Reflection (40%)**

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## **LAW 339: Intellectual Property Law II: Trademarks & Patents**

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module serves as an introduction to both trademark and patent laws, highlighting their pivotal roles in everyday life by fostering innovation, competition and contributing to societal benefits. With patents, individuals receive protection in exchange for disclosing technical details about a new product or process.

This protection grants the patent-holder a limited monopoly to exploit the applied innovation. Conversely, a trademark functions as a badge of origin, bestowed upon a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from another. This ensures that consumers can make informed choices when selecting a product or service. The first part of the module will cover topics such as rationale for patent protection, patentability criteria, exceptions, and exclusions to patentability as well as patent infringement and how to enforce a patent. The second part of the module covering trade mark law will include issues such as the process of trade mark registration, subject matter of trade mark protection, absolute and relative grounds for trade mark invalidity, revocation, infringement of trademark and defences.

**Module Leader: Dr Sabine Jacques** (Sabine.Jacques@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Coursework (90%) + MCQ Exercise (10%)**

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## **LAW 052: Medical Law and Ethics II**

**LAW 051 is a prerequisite for this module.**

15 Credits | Semester 2

*You cannot register for this module, if you have not registered for LAW051 in Semester 1*

This module introduces students to key ethical principles as they relate to the legal regulation of medical practice. This module will look at autonomy in greater detail, examining adolescent autonomy and children's decision making, autonomy in relation to non-therapeutic and contentious surgeries such as cosmetic surgery, reproductive autonomy (encompassing the right not to reproduce e.g. sterilisation and abortion) as well as the right to reproduce (examining regulation of human reproduction and assisted reproductive technologies). This module will also look at the latest developments in this area and how the fundamental principles of medical law and ethics are developed and re-shaped in light of novel technological and medical developments. At a formal level, the module encourages students to develop reasoned ethical perspectives on autonomy as applied in various contexts.

**Module Leader: Dr Danielle Griffiths** (Danielle.Griffiths@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Seminar Preparation (5%) + Online Exam (95%)**

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## **LAW 341: Privacy Surveillance and the Law of Social Media**

15 Credits | Semester 2

The widespread digitalisation of our daily lives through social media platforms, networked applications, and mobile devices offers undeniable benefits, such as facilitating social connection and providing access to information. However, this interconnected landscape also presents significant data protection challenges, particularly given the growing public unease about how digital interactions are collected, stored, and processed by various organisations and communication service providers. The rise of surveillance and online tracking practices further exacerbates these concerns.

Under the lens of the UK's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR), the data practices of communication platforms, social media giants, and app developers raise crucial questions about access to, and control over, personal data. LAW 341 explores the key challenges in this regulatory landscape, highlighting the need for a multifaceted approach that prioritises transparency, accountability, and respect for individuals' expectations regarding the processing of their personal data.

The module equips students with the knowledge, problem-solving skills, and confidence to reflect critically on the role and significance of data protection rules for regulating the social media environment and addressing the challenges posed by surveillance and online tracking. The learning environment enables students to develop their problem-solving, research, and communication skills when addressing issues such as what types of processing activities are regulated, the contexts in which rights and duties materialise, and measures for managing risks in the evolving social media landscape.

**Module Leader: Mr Joseph Savirimuthu** (Joseph.Savirimuthu@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: MCQ Exercise (5%) + Coursework (95%)**

## **LAW 374: Competition Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

**Pre-requisite: LAW210**  
**OR Co-requisite: LAW310**

This is a third-year undergraduate module on competition law. The module will cover the basic rules of competition law in the EU, UK and other legal systems, including rules against anticompetitive agreements, monopolisation/abuse of dominance, anticompetitive mergers and public and private enforcement of competition rules.

**Module Coordinator: Dr Andrea Gideon** (akgideon@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: MCQ Exercise (10%) + Open Book Written Examination (90%)**

## **LAW 320: Conflict and Security Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

Security, conflict and the law engages students in critical learning about the role of law in the context of crises to national security caused by conflict and political violence. The module explores the meaning of concepts such as security, terrorism and emergency. Further, it examines the history and genesis of emergency powers, the law relevant to terrorism and the challenges posed by counterterrorism laws, policies and practices. Students will gain an appreciation of the intersections between security, conflict and law from a UK and an international law perspective. Therefore, the module requires students to engage with and to see the links between different branches of law such as public international law, international human rights law, immigration laws and constitutional law. Students will be required to develop reasoned viewpoints on the effects of conflict and counterterrorism on human rights, for example, on the right to life, on the principle of non-refoulement and on liberty.

**Module Coordinator:** Prof Michelle Farrell (Michelle.Farrell@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** Blog post (10%) and Coursework (90%)

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## **LAW 348: Animal Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

This course examines the way in which the law regulates the treatment of animals in the UK and internationally. Students will have the opportunity to explore animal law from its historical development to contemporary issues surrounding human-animal interactions.

Students will develop their knowledge in the developing field of animal law from both a policy and practical/doctrinal perspective and from a theoretical perspective. Students will be introduced to the philosophical foundations of animal law which are important in order to examine the gaps and opportunities in the law relating to animals as it is presently constituted. The course will cover the historical development of animal law, the legal status of animals, and the legal and political framework. A series of case studies will aid students in developing a critical understanding of the different approaches to protecting / regulating animals through the law. These include discussions about religious practices relating to slaughter, the granting of rights to primates, factory farming and the development of dangerous dogs legislation (amongst others). Students will engage in debates about how animals should be recognised in the law, and the relative benefits and drawbacks of different approaches i.e. animal welfare vs. animal rights, or approaches grounded in relationality, vulnerability etc.

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Katy Sowery (Katy.Sowery@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** Presentation (20%) and Coursework (80%)

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## **LAW 347: Sports Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

Sport has moved from an amateur pastime to a highly regulated legal sphere, now constituting its own body of law. This module will introduce you to some key areas of sports law – you will look at questions such as ‘what is a professional sports contract?’, ‘can you be criminally liable for injuring someone whilst playing sport?’, ‘are anti-doping regimes in sport fair?’, ‘what are the rules around the participation of transgender and intersex athletes in elite sport?’. You will also be introduced to some of the key principles which underpin sports law. This module is taught from a critical perspective – so we won’t just learn about what the law says about sport, we will question the impact that this body of law has on individuals involved in sport, and whether law makes sport a fairer environment.

**Module Coordinator:** **Dr Eleanor Drywood** (E.W.Drywood@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** **MCQ Exercise (10%) and Coursework (90%)**

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## **LAW 343: Advanced Public Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

*Pre-requisites: LAW106*

In recent years, legal systems and the constitutions that structure them seem under increased strain. In the UK alone, we have seen, amongst many other issues, exit from the European Union; scandal surrounding Government handling of the Covid-19 pandemic; increased use of judicial review to challenge (often controversial) Government decision-making; frequent changes of Prime Minister; and the question of Scottish independence both subject to a referendum yet seemingly unresolved.

Advanced Public Law explores some of the key challenges facing constitutional frameworks at the UK, European and/or international levels. Drawing on staff expertise, the three specific topics studied each year will be dynamic, allowing students to focus on the most pressing issues facing public law. However, recent examples include: Courts and Rights in the Age of Austerity; The Break-Up of Britain: Constitutional Responses to a Territorial Crisis; and Extra-Parliamentary Sites of Accountability in the Age of Social Media Age.

Whatever the topic, with its central themes of Power, Rights and Accountability, the module will enable students to approach key public law questions: how does law create and divide public power, and ensure the exercise of power is legitimate? How do rights constrain public authorities, and can courts have a major impact on significant social, economic and political challenges? How effectively is power held to account through constitutional processes, and how could accountability be enhanced in democratic constitutions?

In this way, Advanced Public Law will give students an in-depth understanding of some of the key constitutional challenges facing legal and political systems in the modern world. It will be assessed by a “seen” examination, with the exam paper released to students 24 hours before the start of the assessment, to allow time for focused revision and detailed essay planning.

**Module Coordinator:** **Dr Stephanie Reynolds** (S.Reynolds@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** **Seen written exam (100%)**

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## **LAW 373: Corporate Insolvency Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

The Corporate Insolvency Law (CIL) module critically examines the legal rules, policy and theoretical underpinnings that exist to deal with insolvent companies. The corporate insolvency regimes (administration, company voluntary arrangements (CVAs), and schemes of arrangement (SofA)) that facilitate rescue of the juristic person, as well as other avenues (liquidation, receivership, informal arrangements) are critically examined. The use of each procedure and relevant primary and secondary source material is examined to place each procedure in practical context. There is an emphasis on English and Welsh authority and procedures, but some international materials are also used.

**Module Leader: Dr John Tribe** (jtribe@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: MCQ Exercise (5%) and Coursework (95%)**

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## **LAW 033: Criminal Evidence**

*Pre-requisite: LAW107*

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module seeks to introduce students to the law governing rules of evidence in criminal cases. The course briefly examines the development of the law on criminal evidence, including an assessment of the judge and jury's functions, before focus switches to more substantive matters relating to the operation and admissibility of criminal evidence. Such matters comprise consideration of burden and standard of proof, both of fundamental procedural and human rights significance for the parties in a criminal case. Other topics addressed include examination of witnesses, specifically examination-in-chief, cross-examination, competence/compellability and corroboration/identification. Later in the module selected types of evidence are investigated, in particular character evidence, hearsay evidence and confessions.

**Module Leader: Dr Sacha Waxman** (Sacha.Waxman@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type: Unseen Written Exam (100%)**

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## **LAW 344: Comparative Law**

15 Credits | Semester 2

In today's globalised world, legal professionals are increasingly in contact with 'foreign law' – the law of other legal systems. Practitioners are hired to litigate transnational legal disputes. Judges may also be required to engage with foreign law in legal proceedings. Legislatures too frequently look outside their own legal systems for solutions to regulatory problems. But is it possible to transplant legal rules and structures from one system to another? How and why might this be done? To what extent should judges engage with foreign law? And is it even possible to engage meaningfully with foreign law without detailed knowledge of the legal system to which that law belongs?

Comparative law provides a framework to approach, analyse and critique the use of foreign law. This module will introduce you to the principal theories and methodologies of comparative law. The focus is on empowering you to understand the application of comparative law to resolve legal problems and regulatory challenges within domestic and international legal systems.

At the end of this module, you will have a clear understanding of the nature, functions and limits of comparative law and be able to relate these to a broad range of contemporary and historical legal developments within particular legal systems. You will also be equipped to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the comparative method in specific contexts; for example, as a mode of constitutional law reform. By introducing you to critical and postmodern approaches to comparative law, the module will further challenge you to think critically about liberal and western-centric trends that remain deeply embedded in legal scholarship and practice.

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Thomas Horsley (thomash@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** MCQ Exercise (10%) and Coursework (90%)

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## **LAW 035: Dissertation**

15 Credits | Semester 2

Over the course of the second semester, students complete a 6000-word dissertation with the support of a supervisor. Formulating their own research questions, students gain experience of extended writing in an area of particular interest. The Dissertation Module allows students to develop their own research ideas with the support of their supervisor. They develop their own legal research interests, alongside their research skills. While the supervisor provides student support, independent research is at the core of the programme. Students will take full ownership of their projects. They will plan, research, review relevant legal literature, explore fundamental concepts, synthesise complex information, and finally, write up their research as a coherent dissertation.

**Module Coordinator:** Dr Philip Burton (Philip.burton@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (100%)

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Please be advised that you are not permitted to enroll on an optional module in final year where you have already taken that module earlier in your studies.

For example, if you studied **Company Law** in **second year**, you cannot select **LAW029 Company Law** in your **final year**.

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### **Further important module information**

- LAW051 Medical Law 1 can be chosen on its own in Semester 1 or together with LAW052 Medical Law 2 in Semester 2.
- LAW052 CANNOT be chosen on its own. You have to pick LAW051 in Semester 1 if you want to study LAW052 in Semester 2.
- LAW362 ECHR 1 can be chosen on its own in Semester 1 or together with LAW379 ECHR 2 in Semester 2.
- LAW338 IP Rights 1 can be picked on its own in Semester 1 or together with LAW339 IP Rights 2 in Semester 2. LAW339 can be picked on its own in Semester 2 or together with LAW338 IP Rights 1 in Semester 1. Both modules are standalone and can be picked separately.
- LAW322 and LAW369 in Semester 2 CANNOT be chosen together.