

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	American Legal Practice
2	Module Credits	40
3	Module Level	6
4	Module Code	LAW6074

5	Module Overview
<p>American Legal Practice (ALP) is an optional module that forms one of your choices on the LL.B. (Hons) and LL.B. (Hons) Law with American Legal Studies programmes. It provides experience of a fusion of law and practice in an international context. You must apply to undertake a placement. The rationale for its inclusion in the programme and the LL.B. Law with American Legal Studies pathways is to provide you with an overview of the American justice process (with a particular focus on criminal proceedings) and an opportunity to develop key legal skills through a practical internship and factually-based research and writing exercises. In so doing, the module engages with relevant legal concepts and practical lawyering skills relevant to the application of due process protections in the American justice system and advances your ability to undertake effective American legal research, referencing and writing.</p> <p>This module uses a creative assessment strategy. You are required to demonstrate your achievement of the module's learning outcomes through one final (summative) assessment, split into two parts.</p> <p>Part A of the assessment requires you to make a presentation (focusing on problem-solving legal issues presented by a fictitious client case), and be interviewed about your presentation and also your motivation for wishing to undertake an internship.</p> <p>Part B of the assessment takes one of two forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students interning in the United States will be assessed by their host office on the key legal practice skills they have had a substantial opportunity to practice. ii. Students not interning in the United States will be assessed, using a legal memo task, on key legal practice skills. <p>Such assessment implements the programme's learning, teaching and assessment strategy by taking a "practice-led" approach, which fosters your employability skills.</p> <p>This module is in line with the LL.B Programme's philosophy in that it provides you with foundational legal knowledge in the subject area and the opportunity to understand and analyse the law through engaging with 'real life' problems. It also provides you with a comparative element to your study of English law, thereby "facilitating an integrated understanding of the law and its function within a globalised environment." The module's focus on legal representation or judicial decision making also reflects one of the programme's core values. The requirement for you to submit a portfolio of skills and knowledge will help your transition into the working environment and is fundamental to the learning and teaching strategy. Practical legal and factual research, analysis, and writing and organisational skills pervade the module in keeping with this strategy.</p> <p>The set of skills practised on this module are directly relevant to you in your future participation in a wide range of employment associated activities. These skills are closely aligned to the legal profession but are also applicable in many other professional and business sectors.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
Key legal process topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due process protections • the court system • the US Supreme Court • US constitution Development of legal practice skills Opportunity to apply to undertake an internship in the USA.	

7		Module Learning Outcomes
		On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:
	1	Undertake effective legal research into legal issue(s) as presented by a client case.
	2	Problem-solve through critically evaluating and applying legal sources.
	3	Demonstrate presentation skills within a professional interview.
	4	Evidence legal practice skills within a unique professional environment (interning students) or evidence legal practice skills through a simulated practice-based task (non-intern).

8		Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome				
		Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1				X (interning and non-interning)
2				X (interning and non-interning)
3				X (interning and non-interning)
4		X (non-interning students)		X (interning)

9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	48
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	96
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	256
Total Study Hours:	400