

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The American Legal System
Status: Definitive
Code: **6103LAWPL** (121191)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Law
Teaching School/Faculty: Law

Team	Leader
Sarah Stirk	Y
Gary Wilson	

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 38
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 162

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Seminar	8
Workshop	6

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	3000 words essay	70	
Presentation	Pres	20 minute oral presentation in a conference format	30	

Aims

1. To provide an understanding of essential elements of the American Legal system
2. To provide an awareness of the differences between the federal and State system
3. To provide an understanding of Federal criminal and Civil procedure
4. To provide an introduction to American Criminal law

5.To provide an understanding of the education, regulation and function of American Lawyers

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts on the American Legal System and formulate judgments as well as identify a range of solutions to problems that are raised.
- 2 Demonstrate an ability to apply gained legal knowledge to complex problems, to reflect upon and evaluate this application and to draw logical reasoned conclusions that are supported by argument and legal authority.
- 3 Demonstrate a well-developed ability to use a wide variety of standard legal and other electronic sources of information.
- 4 Demonstrate an ability to orally articulate their conclusions and analysis on the American Legal System.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

3000 words essay	1	2	3
20 minute oral presentation	1	2	4

Outline Syllabus

Brief history of the American Legal system
The structure and role of the US Constitution
The Federal and State court Structures and Personnel
Introduction to Federal Civil Procedure
Introduction to Federal Criminal Procedure
Introduction to American Criminal Law
US Lawyers, education, regulation and functions and law firm structure

Learning Activities

Students will undertake some or all of the following:

Lectures
Group work
Drafting exercises
Presentations
Case studies
Case analysis
Research exercises
Reading
Seminars

Notes

This module will introduce students to the American Legal System and provide them with an introductory understanding of how the system works in respect of both Civil and Criminal Procedure. The module will be taught through a mixture of Lectures and seminars. The module will be assessed through a 3000 word essay and a 20 minute presentation on the topic of their essay. The presentation will be given in front of the class in a conference style setting with the presenter fielding questions at the end. Students will have free choice on their essay topic and will be able to set their own essay title but they have to receive approval from a member of the module team in the area they wish to write on.