

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Postgraduate Legal Research Methods  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7105LAWPL** (119611)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2015

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

Team	Leader
Nirmala Pillay	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7  
**Credit Value:** 15  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 18  
**Total Learning Hours:** 150  
**Private Study:** 132

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Seminar	18

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Coursework Assignment	100	

### Aims

- 1. Provide students with knowledge and critical analysis of key themes of UK and European law set against an international backdrop*
- 2. Provide the opportunity to examine contemporary issues relating to the need for accountability with regard to methods of operating in this sphere of European International law*
- 3. Develop originality in the application of knowledge, together with practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to*

*create and interpret knowledge in the discipline*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Show originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry may be used to create and interpret knowledge in relevant areas of law
- 2 Identify and summarise relevant information and develop an evidence-based approach to research and demonstrate competency in using information technology
- 3 Enhance students ability to plan and implement tasks and communicate to a range of audiences at a professional or equivalent level

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

Essay (4000 words)	1	2	3
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## **Outline Syllabus**

### *1. Basic Research Skills*

- *Introduction to the Library/Resource Centre*
- *IT session 1: Introduction to Legal Database (Lexis; Westlaw) - search and use.*
- *IT session 2: Refresher course on presenting a Thesis*

### *2. Writing for postgraduate students*

### *3. Epistemology and approaches to research*

- *critical legal studies*
- *hermeneutics*
- *Marxist critique*
- *socio-legal studeis approach*
- *Empirical approach*

### *4. Research design*

- *Qualitative; quantitative*
- *observations; interviews; focus groups; case studies*
- *statistical analysis; surveys; questionnaires*
- *database information*

### *5. Evaluating strengths and weaknesses*

### *6. Presenting Qualitative and Quantitative data*

### *7. Research Ethics*

## **Learning Activities**

All modules utilise blended learning to enrich the intellectual and innovative landscape of the course through methods involving interactive, self-directed and independent learning.

Lecturer-produced course materials where appropriate will be available for students to access electronically.

Students will have opportunities to collaborate with others in their learning cohort through structured seminar sessions.

Generally the teaching and learning style of delivery is seminar/workshop-based with students being required to undertake preliminary reading in order to prepare for and actively participate in group discussion

## **Notes**

This is a Core Module on the LLM European Law and also a Core Module on the LLM in Global Crime, Justice & Security