

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Postgraduate Legal Research Methods
Status: Definitive
Code: **7120LAWPL** (119756)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2013

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

| Team | Leader |
|----------------|--------|
| Nirmala Pillay | Y |

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 15.00
Total Delivered Hours: 18.00
Total Learning Hours: 150
Private Study: 132

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Seminar | 18.000 |

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Essay | AS1 | Coursework Assignment | 100.0 | |

Aims

- 1. Provide students with knowledge and critical analysis of key themes of Uk, European and International law set against global influences and a wider multidisciplinary 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 and 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:

- A4 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
- C2 Identify and summarise relevant information and develop an evidence-based and/or empirical approach to research and demonstrate competency in using information technology
- D3 Enhance students ability to plan and implement tasks, undertake self-managed research and prepare responses for communication 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) A4 C2 D3

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 studies 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

8. The use of social-science techniques within research

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

Students will receive focused sessions on social-science research techniques

References

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Cryer, P |
| Publishing Year | 2006 |
| Title | The Research students Guide to Success |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | 3rd Edition |
| Publisher | Maidenhead: OUP |
| ISBN | |

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Bryman, A |
| Publishing Year | 2008 |
| Title | Social Research Methods |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | 3rd Edition |
| Publisher | OUP Oxford |
| ISBN | |

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|------------------------|--|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Gilbert, G.N. |
| Publishing Year | 2006 |
| Title | From postgraduate to Social Scientist: a guide to key skills |
| Subtitle | |

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| Edition | |
| Publisher | Sage |
| ISBN | |

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Grix, J. |
| Publishing Year | 2012 |
| Title | The Foundation of Research |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | |
| Publisher | Palgrave McMillan |
| ISBN | |

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Mason, J. |
| Publishing Year | 2002 |
| Title | Qualitative Researching |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | 2nd Edition |
| Publisher | Sage |
| ISBN | |

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|------------------------|--|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Rocco, T.S. and Hatcher, T. and Creswell, J.W. |
| Publishing Year | 2011 |
| Title | The Handbook of Scholarly Writing & Publishing |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | |
| Publisher | Jossey-Bass |
| ISBN | |

Notes

This is a Core Module on the MSc in Global Crime, Justice & Security