

Legal Studies

Section A: Headline Information	
Module title	Legal Studies
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	8
Module number/reference	TBC
Module Co-ordinator	Eithne Leahy BL
Parent programme(s)	Higher Certificate in Social, Political and Community Studies; BA in Social, Political and Community Studies; BA (Honours) in Social, Political and Community Studies.
Stage of parent programme	Stage 2
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	Semester 2
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	5
List the teaching and learning modes	Lectures and web facilitated learning
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)	For entry onto Stage 2, successful completion of the preceding stage of the programme or equivalent is required in accordance with College regulations.
Pre-requisite module titles	N/A
Co-requisite module titles	N/A
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements)	Module co-ordinators, lecturers and tutors must have a minimum Level 9 qualification in the relevant discipline or a closely cognate area.
Maximum number of learners per centre (or instance of the module)	25
Duration of the module	1 Semester: 12 weeks
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below)	2 hours
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)	Lecture Hall Small Group-work Room
Analysis of required learning effort	
*Effort while in contact with staff	

Classroom and demonstrations		Mentoring and small-group tutoring		Other (specify)		Directed e-learning (hours)	Independent learning (hours)	Other hours (specify)	Work-based learning hours of learning effort	Total effort (hours)
Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher/learner					
24	1: 5						101			125 hours
Allocation of marks (within the module)										
				Continuous assessment	Supervised project	Proctored practical examination	Proctored written examination	Total		
Percentage contribution				100%				100%		

Section B: Module Descriptor	
Rationale for Inclusion of the Module in the Programme and its Contribution to the Overall IPLOs	Learners are introduced to the knowledge base of law in relation to the work of the community and non-profit sector.
Module Aims and Objectives	<p>The module aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline and discuss the Irish Legal System. 2. Examine the international legal order. 3. Provide an overview of the legal frameworks in relation to the family, human rights and people with disabilities.
Minimum Module Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module, learners should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciate the Irish Legal system, with emphasis on sexual offending behaviour (MIPLO 3). 2. Explain the international legal order (MIPLO 3). 3. Outline the legal responsibilities and obligations of the family (MIPLOs 3). 4. Examine the legal basis for separation agreements, judicial separation and divorce (MIPLO 3). 5. Discuss the legislative framework for human rights with a focus on the elderly and individuals with disabilities (MIPLO 3).

Information Provided to Learners about the Module	<p>College Prospectus specifies module name, stage and ECTS.</p> <p>College website and programme handbook to contain (in addition to above) short description of module content, module learning outcomes, prerequisite modules, and assessment mechanisms.</p> <p>Module handbook to contain (in addition to above) schedule of classes and topics, detailed assessment information with titles and submission dates, full bibliography and list of learning resources.</p> <p>Diploma Supplement contains module name, code, stage and ECTS</p>
Module Content, Organisation and Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the legal system - Criminal and civil law 2. Introduction to the international legal order, concept of citizenship, European citizenship, ECHR and ICC. 3. Constitutional rights and the family 4. Introduction to marriage breakdown, separation agreements, judicial and divorce. 5. Introduction to juvenile justice – offending behaviour. 6. Introduction to the law and vulnerable individuals within the community including those with special needs and the elderly.
Module Teaching and Learning Strategy	<p>Role play – an essential element of teaching legal studies</p> <p>PowerPoint lectures</p> <p>Attending Court</p> <p>E-learning</p>
Work-Based Learning and Practice-Placement	N/A
E-Learning	Moodle will be used to deliver material and additional reading.
Specifications for Module Staffing Requirements	One lecturer with a minimum Level 9 qualification in the relevant discipline or a closely cognate area.
Module Summative Assessment Strategy	Two written assignments, a case study – 40% (formative/summative) and an essay 60% (summative).
Sample Assessment Materials	<p>Case Study example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It’s time the death penalty was re-introduced”. Discuss with reference to case law (1000 words). <p>Essay title example:</p> <p>Discuss the rights of an unmarried father vis-a-vis his child. Learners are expected to discuss the rights of a father historically and in modern times (1,500 words).</p>
Reading Lists and Other Information Resources	<p><u>Essential Reading:</u></p> <p>Shannon, G. (2016). <i>Children and Family Relationships Law in Ireland Practice and Procedure</i>, UK: Clarus Press</p> <p>Shannon, G. (2010). <i>Child Law</i>, (2nd Ed.), Thomas Reuters (Round Hall)</p>

	<p>Coffey, G. (2010). <i>Criminal Law</i>, Dublin: Round Hall Press</p> <p>Cohen, R. (2013). <i>Garda Powers: Law and Practice</i>, UK: Clarus Press</p> <p>Healy, J. (2009). <i>Medical Malpractice Law</i>, Dublin: Round Hall</p>
Module Physical Resource Requirements	Lecture Hall, IT, WiFi.