

# Descriptor for Module LIIS01 (Version 1)

**Module Title:** Introduction to Constitutional and Administrative Law

**Module Team:** Ruth Ryder, Cardiff School of Creative and Cultural Industries [\[email\]](#) Room: 1LR Tel: 4460;

**Credits:** 20

**Pre-requisite(s):** None Specified

**Co-requisite(s):** None specified

**This module is a component of the following Award(s)**

<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Criminology and Criminal Justice [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Criminology and Criminal Justice (Qualifying) [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Psychology [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Psychology (Qualifying) [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Sociology [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Honours) Law with Sociology (Qualifying) [1] - 17 May 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">BA (Hons) Modern Europe [1] - 02 Oct 2006</a>	Optional Module
<a href="#">BA (Hons) Modern Europe (History ,Politics and Legal Studies) [1] - 11 Jul 2006</a>	Optional Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Commercial Law [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Commercial Law (Qualifying) [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Criminal Law [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Criminal Law (Qualifying) [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) European Law [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) European Law (Qualifying) [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Law (Part-Time) [1] - 21 Mar 2003</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Law (Full-Time) [1] - 17 Mar 2006</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Law (Full-Time) Qualifying [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module
<a href="#">LLB (Honours) Law (Part-Time) Qualifying [1] - 06 Feb 2002</a>	Core Module

## Aims of the Module

The aims of this module are:

1. To develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the legal aspects of Constitutional Law within the United Kingdom;
2. To develop the student's understanding and ability to analyse the fundamental concepts and principles of the Constitution within the UK;
3. To enable students to compare and contrast Constitutional Law from both a European and international perspective;
4. To enable students to appreciate the variety of constitutional institutions within the United Kingdom.

## Synopsis of Module Content

The module comprises the law relation to the Constitution within the United Kingdom and the devolved institutions in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and London. The module will begin by providing an overview of the development of the Constitution in the United Kingdom and the prominence of Parliament as the supreme lawmaker. This part of the module will provide an overview of the sources of the Constitution.

The next part of the module will concentrate upon impact of devolution in the United Kingdom since 1997. This will involve an assessment of the role, function and purpose of the devolved institutions.

The influence and importance of European Union Law in relation to the United Kingdom will be discussed. This will involve assessing the impact of European Law on the notion of Sovereignty of Parliament and a brief

discussion of the institutions of the European Union.

The next part of the module will involve an introduction to the Human Rights Act (1998) and an assessment of its importance within the United Kingdom Constitution. The impact of the Human Rights Act (1998) will be discussed with a discussion of its main provisions. In conjunction with the rights created under the Human Rights Act (1998), the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) and the Public Order Act (1986) will be analysed.

The House of Lords will form the next part of the module. The House of Lords Act (1999), the Royal Commission on the House of Lords (2000) and the Government's policy to reforming the House of Lords will form the main element of discussion here.

This part of the syllabus will provide an overview of the electoral system in the United Kingdom. This will include a discussion of the voting systems that have been adopted in the devolved institutions and proposals for reform.

The latter part of the module will concentrate on the powers of the Monarchy under the Royal Prerogative and the Executive. This will involve an analysis of the modern day constitutional role of the Monarchy and its relationship with the Executive. The composition of the Executive will be discussed and the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister will be the central issue to this topic. Furthermore, the relationship between Ministers and Civil Servants will be discussed.

The next part of the module will involve an analysis of the role and function of the security services in the United Kingdom. This will include MI5, MI6, SIS, NCIS and GCHQ. The accountability of these bodies along with relevant legislation will be discussed.

The final part of the module will involve a discussion of Judicial Review. This will involve discussing the principles of Judicial Review and adapting these principles to given scenarios.

### **Teaching Methods**

This module will be delivered by three hours class contact time per week on full-time awards. It will be taught through a series of lectures, which will involve elements of conventional information giving while also including an interactive element. Lectures will enable the course to run and develop in an organised structure.

The remainder of the module will be taught in a series of workshops. Workshop techniques will include legal problems and case studies, to develop research skills and the application of law in given problems. The workshop will involve a large element of group work with the aim of further developing communication and interpersonal skills.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the module students will be able to:

1. Understand the operation and importance of the constitution within the United Kingdom; and
2. Identify the major contemporary constitutional issues and assess UK constitutional law.

### **Assessment Requirements**

The assessment programme will consist of two types of assessment. The first will be a written coursework of 2,400 words, which will attract 40% of the overall mark. The coursework will take the form of either an essay on a part of the course or a problem scenario, which will require the student

to apply the relevant law to advise a party or parties. The coursework is an individual piece of work.

The examination will account for 60% of the overall mark. The examination will be a 2 1/2 hour unseen paper. The exam paper will consist of both essay and problem questions reflecting the nature and content of the course.

### **Concise Indicative Reading List**

Books (students are referred to the latest editions)

Barnett, Constitutional and Administrative Law, Cavendish

Bradley, A. W. & Ewing, K., Constitutional and Administrative Law, Longman

DeSmith, S & Brazier, R., Constitutional and Administrative Law, Penguin

Pollard, D., Constitutional and Administrative Law, Butterworths

Dicey, A., Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution, Macmillan Education

Journals

Journal of Law and Society

Law Teacher

Law Quarterly Review

Legal Studies

Modern Law Review

New Law Journal

Internet References

Home Office [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Government Information Services [www.open.gov.uk](http://www.open.gov.uk)

House of Commons <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmhome.htm>

House of Lords <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld/ldhome.htm>

National Assembly for Wales [www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

### **Key Skills delivered by this Module**

Managing and developing self

Communication and literacy

### **Validation Details**

This module is validated.

This descriptor was created/last amended by Belinda Davies (Faculty of Humanities and Social Science) on 02 Dec 2004

Module Database for 2006 and onwards - version 2.7

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If you have any queries regarding the MODB2 Database please contact [Anthony Clements](#)