1. **Title of the module**

LAWS5660 (LW566): Law Dissertation

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS Credits)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

Only students with EITHER the minimum of a 2:1 mark in the LAWS5920 Public Law Special Study (Stage 2) OR a Minimum of a Merit in Stage One are usually allowed to register for this module. HOWEVER a case for allowing a student onto the module who has not achieved one of these thresholds can be considered in each individual case by the convenor. The school will confirm this once a student has been registered for the module and will write to the student explaining their options if the conditions are not met.

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

All Law programmes. Not available to non-law students.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.
On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. explain and justify the significance of their research
3. be familiar with the literature relevant to their research
4. be familiar with the theories, concepts and methods relevant to their research
5. examine and critically evaluate legal issues within a social and critical context as evidenced by and within their dissertation projects, and be able to support the evaluation with evidence and reasoning
6. conduct research independently by drawing on feedback from academic supervisors, by exercising reflection and self-criticism, and by managing time and resources effectively
7. communicate the findings of their research effectively and fluently in an extended piece of writing (a 6-8,000 word dissertation)
8. **The intended generic learning outcomes.
On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
9. be familiar with the research process – from formulating meaningful and feasible research questions, through undertaking research using appropriate literature (whether primary or secondary)
10. undertake analysis of complex areas of knowledge and make carefully constructed arguments
11. have independent learning ability required for further study or professional work
12. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The module is taken over one term. Students will attend a small number of lectures introducing the trajectory of a research project, the use of library resources, primary and secondary material, use of citations and constructing a bibliography etc. The main experience of the module is found in the supervision process between supervisor and student, who between themselves decide on the specific plan for the research programme.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Bell, J, *Doing your Research Project: A guide for first-time researchers 6th Ed*, (Open University Press, Maidenhead 2014)

Cottrell, S, *The Study Skills Handbook (Palgrave Study Skills) 4th Ed*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)

Crème, P & Lee, M, *Writing at University 3rd Ed*, (Open University Press, Maidenhead 2008)

Denscombe, M, *The Good Research Guide: For Small Scale Research Projects 5th Ed*, (Open University Press, Maidenhead 2014)

Denscombe, M, *Research Proposals: A Practical Guide*, (Open University Press, Maidenhead 2012)

Girden, E, *Evaluating Research Articles from Start to Finish 3rd Ed*, (Sage, London 2010)

May, T, *Social Research: Issues, Methods and Research 4th Ed*, (Open University Press, Maidenhead 2011)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

This module will be taught by means of lectures, supervision session and private study.

Total study hours: 150

Contact hours: 7

Private study hours: 143

1. **Assessment methods.**

13.1 Main assessment methods

The module will be assessed by 100% project as follows:

A dissertation, 6000-8000 words (100%)

13.2 Reassessment method

The module will be reassessed by a reassessment instrument of a dissertation for 100%. The reassessment will test all of the learning outcomes as indicated in section 14 below.

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |
| Supervision |  |  |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** | Specify word length, duration, individual or group work (as appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dissertation | 6000-8000 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

**a) Accessible resources and curriculum**

1. Preference will be given to electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards and support the use of assistive technologies.
2. Module outlines will be made accessible at least four weeks before the module starts.
3. Prioritised reading lists will be made available sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.
4. Lecture/seminar slides/outlines will be made available in electronic format in advance to allow all students to prepare (particularly students with notetaking difficulties).
5. In accordance with the KLS school-level statement on Lecture Capture, lectures will be recorded to assist notetaking unless one or more of the lectures contains sensitive material. The module convenor will notify students in advance of any lectures that will not be recorded.

**b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b (1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Canterbury.

1. **Internationalisation**

The dissertation topic is identified by the student and it will be their choice as to whether it has an International outlook.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs(Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| 21/09/2017 | Minor | September 2018 | 12-13, 17 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |