1. **Title of the module**

LAWS6460 (LW646) Homelessness Law and Policy

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)**

Autumn or Spring

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

LAWS5880 Public Law 1 or LAWS6140 Public Law 1 (Certificate Programme)

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

All social sciences undergraduate law programmes.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the relevant statutory provisions relevant to homelessness.
   2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the policy frameworks underpinning state provision for the homeless including an historical and comparative understanding.
   3. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of how devolution has impacted upon legal responses to homelessness throughout the UK.
   4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of responses to street homelessness and how those responses inform contemporary understandings of the state.
   5. Critically assess claims about the progressive potential of homelessness law and policy and its relationship to broader social policies such as addressing social exclusion.
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Effectively locate primary and secondary legal and policy sources and to apply them to specific policy and legal issues.
   2. Critically evaluate an area of law both doctrinally and in terms of its socio-economic consequences.
   3. Recognise potential alternative solutions to particular problems and make a reasoned choice between them.
   4. Formulate and sustain a complex argument, supporting it with appropriate evidence.
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module will provide students with a strong grounding in the technical law relating to homelessness, as well as an understanding of some of the key policy debates which underlie this legal framework. The module opens with discussion of social understandings of home and homelessness, before moving to a detailed assessment of the current framework of England's homelessness law. It will examine statute and case law relating to the duties on local authorities to respond to homelessness, including the definition of homelessness; who is “eligible” for housing; the key concepts of priority need and the meaning of vulnerability; what happens when someone is considered to be “intentionally homeless”; and the impact of a connection to another local authority. The review of the contemporary legal structure closes with discussion of the procedure which homeless applicants will undergo and a review of the law and policy relating to allocation policies. The second part of the module places this legal structure in context by examining the history of homelessness provision and regulation; considering responses to homelessness in other jurisdictions and examining the regulation and perceptions of street homelessness.

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

* Andrew Arden et al., *Homelessness and Allocations*, 10th Edition (Legal Action Group, 2017)
* David Cowan, *Housing Law and Policy (Law in Context)*, (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
* Jessie Hohmann, *The Right to Housing: Law, Concepts, Possibilities,* (Hart Publishing, 2013)
* Jan Luba QC, Liz Davies and Connor Johnston, *Housing Allocations and Homelessness Law and Practice*, 4th Edition, (Jordan Publishing, 2016)
* Peter Marcuse and David Madden, In Defense of Housing: The Politics of Crisis (Verso, 2016)

1. **Learning and Teaching methods**

Contact hours: 20

Private study hours: 130

Total study Hours: 150

1. **Assessment methods.**

13.1 Main assessment methods

Legal problem question (2000 words) (50%)

Essay (2500 words) (50%) \*

\* Students must achieve a mark of 40% in the essay to pass the module overall.

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% coursework

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 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Seminars | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Private Study | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Legal problem question | x |  |  |  |  |  | x | x | x |
| Essay | 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**

In its examination of the history of homelessness provision and regulation; the module considers responses to homelessness in other jurisdictions.

**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) |
| 02/12/19 | Minor | September 2020 | 13 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |