

ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM & LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR ONE Law (IYOne Law)



SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

Module Code	IDLER002
Module Name	English Legal System & Legal Research Skills
Programme Name	International Year One Law
Credits	15
Percentage breakdown of Coursework	50%
Percentage breakdown of Exam/Test	50%
Delivery period	The syllabus will usually be delivered over one 15-week semester
Semester(s)	1
Recommended minimum teaching hours	5 hours per week (over 15 weeks)
Recommended minimum independent study hours	5 hours per week (over 15 weeks)

AIMS

This module aims firstly to introduce students to the legal system of England and Wales (more commonly referred to as the 'English Legal System') and secondly to develop the core skills of legal research that are necessary to succeed both on an LLB programme and in future legal practice.

TOPICS OF STUDY

⇒ Sources of Law

- Legislation
- How to Read an Act of Parliament
- Statutory Interpretation
- Common Law
- How to Locate and Read a Binding Precedent
- Law of the European Union


⇒ Legal Professions


- Judiciary
- Legal Practitioners
- Professional Conduct and Regulation

⇒ Court Systems

- Civil System
- Criminal System
- Family System
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

ASSESSMENT

	What is Assessed?	Topics A-J
	Duration/Word Count	1250-1500 words
	Total Marks	100
	Rubric	Case study
	Contribution to Overall Grade	50%

	What is Assessed?	Topics A-M
	Duration/Word Count	2 hours
	Total Marks	100
	Rubric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ 20 multiple choice questions (2 marks each) ⇒ 3 questions from a choice of 6 (20 marks each)
	Contribution to Overall Grade	50%

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module, a student will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding	⇒ Demonstrate a sound working knowledge and understanding of both the English Legal System and the legal research skills required to succeed on a law degree
Transferable skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Find, interpret and critique different legal sources ⇒ Find, interpret and critique secondary sources such as journal articles ⇒ Understand case citations and how to use those citations to find case law in both hardcopy and using online databases such as Lexis ⇒ Construct a reasoned written legal argument properly referenced according to legal-academic conventions
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Understand legal terminology ⇒ Identify the legal principle established in case law, apply that principle where appropriate and distinguish the <i>ratio decidendi</i> of a case from <i>obiter dicta</i>
Practical skills	⇒ Apply the principles of OSCOLA in legal writing