



Elements of Company Law Course Descriptor

Course Title	Elements of Company Law	Faculty	Law
Course code	NCHLW640	Course Leader	Philip Hunter
Credit points	15	Teaching Period	Michaelmas or Hilary
FHEQ Level	6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Optional for undergraduate combined and single honours students		

COURSE SUMMARY

Arguably, companies are the most popular form adopted by businesspeople to invest and diversify risk. It is now generally accepted that forming companies is the only option one may have to achieve financial objectives where substantial investment is required. Even in some jurisdictions it is mandatory for financial institutions to adopt the form of a company, private or public, before they can obtain a licence to offer their products to the public. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some areas of law underpinning the formation, management, expansion and liquidation of companies as the most popular form of business organisations. Company law is divided in four large blocks or parts namely: company constitution, corporate governance, corporate finance and corporate solvent or insolvent liquidation. Depending on whether students take the course in Michaelmas or Hilary will depend upon the blocks that will be covered.

Students taking the Elements of Company Law course will either attend in Michaelmas or Hilary. If students attend in Hilary they will be given an outline of the law relating to company formation and the importance of the company constitution.

COURSE AIMS

The aims of the course are to:

- Assist students in obtaining a thorough knowledge and understanding of the main principles underpinning company law.
- Enable students to demonstrate systematic knowledge of the operation and management of companies.
- Develop students' legal skills to resolve complex corporate problems and disputes.
- Encourage wider reading and independent legal research of current corporate law issues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1c critically discuss the legal theories, principles, doctrines, values and rules which underpin the incorporation, regulation and corporate governance aspects of company law
- K2c critically discuss the government agencies that have a role in corporate regulation
- K3c critically discuss company law within the English legal system and its processes in academic and social contexts

COGNITIVE SKILLS

- C1c apply knowledge and critical understanding to determine solutions to complex problems involving company law
- C2c critically analyse factual information, selecting and prioritising from possible alternatives, using reasoned judgment and recognised legal arguments applying to company law
- C3c recognise ambiguity with and understand limits of their knowledge when dealing with company law

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1c communicate accurately and effectively, using a variety of media and technological resources whilst demonstrating care and accuracy in use of English and legal terminology
- T2c demonstrate a high level of ability to manage personal development by effective use of feedback, reflection, determination of needs, acquisition of knowledge and skills and collaborative working
- T3c undertake self-directed research using a wide range of legal and other information sources, evaluating and selecting information based on reasoned criteria

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- 12 hours of full-cohort lectures
- 4 hours of group tutorials
- 2 x 30-minute one-to-one tutorials per student
- 1 x 2-hour revision session

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

At the end of Michaelmas and Hilary, students will attend Collections (formal meetings) in which they receive comprehensive and collated feedback about their performance over the term.

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- This course develops effective written, oral and online communication skills
- The course addresses core needs for practicing lawyers, especially independent research, communication, and presentation skills
- Students will be taught skills and professional awareness to support professional development
- The course develops critical problem solving and the production of evidence-based advice

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These will not count towards the final degree but will provide students with developmental feedback, for example helping students to become more sophisticated in their research skills and analysis of statutes and case law.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Examination	100%	N/A	2 hours	N/A

The examination will consist of a number of questions from which the student will have the choice of answering a specified number. The examination will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Student's will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Bourne, N, 'Bourne on Company Law.' Abingdon, Routledge Cavendish latest edition

Dignam, A & Lowry, J: 'Company Law' Oxford, OUP latest edition.

Sealy, L. & Worthington, S 'Cases & Materials in Company Law.' Oxford OUP latest edition.

Blackstone's Statutes on Company Law Oxford OUP latest edition.

JOURNALS

Modern Law Review

Cambridge Law Journal

Company Lawyer

European Business Law Review

Journal of Business Law

Journal of Law & Economics

Journal of Common Market Studies

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Westlaw

INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- Forms of Business Organisations, Types of Companies, Importance
- The Principle of Separate Legal Personality and its Modern Recognition
- The Company's Constitution
- Company Directors
- Corporate Governance
- Shareholders
- Debentures Fixed and Floating Charges
- Corporate Rescue and Insolvency

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number	approved	published			review date
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