

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	LLM Constitutional Politics, Law and Theory LLM Constitutional Politics, Law and Theory (Intensive)				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMLCPLTH_C TMLCPLTI_C (Intensive version)				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	LAW				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Dip Constitutional Politics, Law and Theory PG Cert Constitutional Politics, Law and Theory				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	Full Time - 1 year ; Part Time - 2 years				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>This programme is designed to provide a critical and contextual engagement with key aspects of both historical and contemporary debates on constitutionalism both to students with a law and a non-law background. The distinctive focus of the programme is on approaches to the role of law in modern states that are theoretically informed, multidisciplinary and grounded on contemporary constitutional practices in a variety of countries.</p> <p>The programme emphasises two parallel realities: In the UK, given the absence of a codified constitution, there has been historically little interest in constitutional law and theory. Thus, to date, while 'constitutional law' -or 'public law'- forms part of all Qualified Law Degree syllabi, there are only a few courses offered at LLM level and there is no other Master's degree in constitutional law and theory in London. A variety of other MA programmes on modern governance exist, none of which focuses on constitutional law and theory even if these remain privileged sites for the manifestation and legitimisation of political power. On the other hand, global developments in the last decades are rapidly reversing this situation: 'Constitutionalisation' is increasingly considered a requirement for democracy and good governance; in the UK calls for a codified constitution and more stringent judicial review have never been more persistent; these calls also refer to the enactment of various Acts (inter alia, on Devolution, Human Rights, Constitutional Reform), combined with increased worries about the legality and moral propriety of political initiatives (i.e. war against Iraq, anti-terrorist measures, suspension of prosecution in political corruption cases) and</p>

	<p>increasing activism by the judiciary (e.g. the common law now affords special protection to so-called ‘constitutional statutes’; a number of high profile judicial review decisions against the government).</p> <p>Students are introduced to the history of key ideas of constitutionalism, a wide range of contemporary theoretical frameworks for the study of the relation of politics and public law, as well as a range of practical examples drawn from diverse jurisdictions.</p> <p>Teaching is undertaken by a range of academics who are experts in the topics covered, including invited British and international non-faculty.</p> <p>In view of the above and due to its flexibility (evening-taught, pt/ft) the programme is equally attractive to legal professionals with an interest in public law but also to non-lawyers: government officials, professionals working for NGOs in the fields of good governance, democracy, the rule of law or human rights, and political activists.</p> <p>The programme attracts students from the UK and overseas in equal measure.</p>
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15	Entry Criteria
	A good undergraduate degree (2:2 or equivalent) and/or relevant experience in related fields.

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Generic skills related to law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ability to place public law in its historical, philosophical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context. In particular we aim to interrogate the interface between the theory and practice of public law i.e. the 'law of politics.' • Knowledge of current theoretical debates on the role of judges in a democracy. • Skills training in planning and undertaking independent research. • Opportunities for students to explore advanced legal research in the context of existing knowledge and competing intellectual approaches to the study of law. • An understanding of interdisciplinary and comparative research within legal scholarship which enables students to make informed and creative use of bodies of literature developed in law, the humanities and social sciences. <p>Subject-specific skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ability to place the theory and practice of constitutional law in its historical, philosophical and socio-political contexts; in particular to understand constitutionalism’s claims to universality in contrast with its cultural and geographical occidental origins. • An appreciation of the theoretical rethinking of politics in our times from its classic philosophical conception as one among many objects of knowledge to acknowledging it as a condition of thought.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ability to identify key critiques of constitutionalism and to critically examine the contemporary meaning and function of constitutional law in relation to politics, both, within states and globally, drawing from a range of contemporary theories. • Comparative knowledge of constitutional history and current practice in selected countries, regions and supra-state entities. • An appreciation of the limitation of law in relation to sustaining democracy, resolving intractable political conflicts as well as preventing abuses of public power and an appreciation of alternative strategies. <p>Transferrable skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to collect and collate materials and effectively communicate them to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. • The ability to work independently and in a group. • Language and communication skills. • Computing and internet skills.
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Learning takes place in 90 minute-long seminars in which tutors use a variety of teaching methods, maximising student interaction and critical engagement. All materials and texts are made available before the seminar takes place using Moodle.</p> <p>Assessment methods vary by module but in the case of the two compulsory modules and almost in all other cases it is by means of 4,000 word research essay.</p> <p>Intensive LLM Constitutional Politics, Law and Theory: Intensive face-to-face with five additional face-to-face hours</p> <p>Study period: Formal study period for modules will commence at 31st January of the year of enrolment. By 31st January of the year of enrolment, students will receive access to module guides and materials via Moodle. Face-to-face teaching occurs in two cycles in March and June each year.</p> <p>Intensity of Study: Students can take the whole programme in one year, covering the classroom aspect of the programme between March and July and submitting all assessments by 16 September. Part-time students will take modules over 2 year.</p> <p>Classroom contact: Intensively taught students will receive 5 hours more of teaching per module than will students on the conventional programme (120 hours per programme, as contrasted to 90 hours per programme) this must be factored into any demands for additional teaching support, including E learning. Formal classes will take place between 9am and 9pm, Monday – Friday from March</p> <p>Timetable (approximate dates):</p>
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	<p>31st January – 1st March – first period class preparation – students will work on study materials for all modules offered in March. The programme guide would have guided students to the appropriate level of study, but basically they must complete the core reading and prepare any exercise for classroom study – the same as any other LLM student, with minimal or no support.</p> <p>March – Intensive classes – first occurrence – students must participate in classes (full attendance) to be permitted to engage assessments.</p> <p>June/July – second period class preparation and/or first period assessments. Students will work on study materials for modules offered between 16-27 July and/or prepare assessments for some or all modules studied in the first period.</p> <p>16-27 July – intensive classes – 2nd occurrence</p> <p>16 July – assessment submission – first opportunity (non-compulsory, but strongly advised for those enrolled for one year only)</p> <p>16th September – assessment submission – compulsory for progression/graduation at the November examinations board.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>Two compulsory modules (one term each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law • Constitutional Law in Practice – Regional Perspectives. <p>Plus:</p> <p>Four optional modules (one each term), one of which may be a Research Project. Options may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LADD071S7 Law, Post-Colonialism and Political Economy • LADD072S7 Law, Post-Development and the Critique of Political Economy • LADD006S7 Cultures of Human Rights • LALA096S7 Equality and the Law • LADD041S7 Futures: The Globalisation of Human Rights • LADD056S7 International Rights of Minorities • LADD055S7 Social Justice • LADD019S7 The World Trade Organization & the Environment
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19	<p>Programme Structure</p> <p>Full-Time programme – 1 year</p> <p>Year 1</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Level</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Module Title</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Credits</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Status*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>LADD066S7**</td> <td>Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td>Compulsory</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>LADD067S7**</td> <td>Constitutional Law in Practice: Regional Perspectives</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td>Compulsory</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td>Four options chosen by student</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 x30</td> <td>Option</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*	7	LADD066S7**	Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law	30	Compulsory	7	LADD067S7**	Constitutional Law in Practice: Regional Perspectives	30	Compulsory	7		Four options chosen by student	4 x30	Option
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Year of entry: 2021/22



Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD066S7**	Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law	30	Compulsory
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD067S7**	Constitutional Law in Practice: Regional Perspectives	30	Compulsory
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
<p>Note: students taking the intensive version of the programme on a part-time basis would normally take their two Compulsory modules and one option in Year 1 and then three options in Year 2.</p> <p>**Students on the intensive version take LALW022S7 Constitutional Law in Practice: Regional Perspectives (Intensive) and LALW023S7 Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law (Intensive) as the Compulsory modules, which are intensive versions of the same modules.</p>				

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Marinos Diamantides, Reader in Law
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2011
22	Date approved by TQEC	October 2008
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2008
24	Date(s) updated/amended	July 2018