UK

SYLLABUS 2026-2027

Legal Environment

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2627_DFC_1_EN_005
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Undergraduate Year 1 (U1); Equivalent to FHEQ level 4 Semester 02
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS *Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload*	3
Equivalent FHEQ credits	6
Study Hours	60 hours which comprise of 28 directed learning and 32 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module offers an introduction to the legal frameworks that govern the business world. It provides students with a foundational understanding of key legal concepts and their practical implications for companies. The curriculum explores various aspects of domestic and international legal systems, with a particular focus on the French, US, and European Union legal frameworks. The module's aim is to help students recognise and navigate the legal challenges they may encounter in a professional environment.

Teaching Arrangement	The module will be delivered through the use of activities and exercises to help students understand the practical application of law.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Identify and explain the foundational concepts of law and the structure of legal systems. 2. Describe the different sources and branches of law, including their role in business. 3. Recognise the key legal frameworks that govern business in the French, US, and European legal systems. 4. Demonstrate a basic understanding of how specific areas of law apply to common business scenarios.
Competency Goals *(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)*	PGE_U_CG01 - Manage teams
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_U_CG01_LO03 - Ensure alignment between the company's strategy and operational objectives by leading change constructively

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Introduction

Content:

- The modern legal system
    - Sources of law
    - Hierarchy of norms
    - Application and interpretation of legal sources

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Session 2: Branches of Law

Content:

- Public law vs. Private law
- Key branches: constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law, civil law, commercial law, and labour law

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Session 3: The French Constitution and Legal Framework

Content:

- Historical context and principles of the Fifth Republic
- The Constitution and the role of the “Conseil Constitutionnel”
- Articulation with the European Union Law

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Last reviewed: 08/09/2026

Session 4: Judicial Organisation

Content:

- Founding principle of civil procedure
- Administrative jurisdictions
- Judiciary jurisdictions

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Session 5: Judiciary Action

Content:

- Seizing the court
- Audience process
- Judiciary players
- Appeal options

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Session 6: Fundamental Principles

Content:

- Continuous Assessment #1 (case study)

References:

- Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Session 7: The US Legal Framework

Content:

- Key principles: federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances
- Role of the Supreme Court and interpreting the Constitution

References:

- Rosen, D., Aronson, B. and Litt, D.G. (2023) *An introduction to American law*. 4th edn. Carolina Academic Press.

Session 8: Revision and Reflection

Content:

- Module revision and reflection

References:

- Rosen, D., Aronson, B. and Litt, D.G. (2023) *An introduction to American law*. 4th edn. Carolina Academic Press.
- Chalmers, D., Davies, G., Monti, G. and Heyvaert, V. (2024) *European Union law: Text and materials*. 5th edn. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

Session 9: Summary

Content:

- Summary of the module's key learnings

KEY TEXTS

1. Wernaart, B. (2022) *International law and business: A global introduction*. 1st edn. Routledge.

Last reviewed: 08/09/2026

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. Chalmers, D., Davies, G., Monti, G. and Heyvaert, V. (2024) *European Union law: Text and materials*. 5th edn. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
2. Rosen, D., Aronson, B. and Litt, D.G. (2023) *An introduction to American law*. 4th edn. Carolina Academic Press.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Case study	20%
	Written assessment	20%
Final Exam (60%)	Closed book written exam	

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Pierrick Harant*
- Reviewer: *Zuzana Miyahara Kratka*
- External Reviewer: *Inma Ramos*

Last reviewed: 08/09/2026