

PROFESSOR: Laws not only play a role in all aspects of our lives- they also enable our society to function. They regulate what we can and what we cannot do, whether travelling, working, studying, shopping, voting, giving to charity, receiving medical treatment, using social media, renting out a flat, or simply going out with your friends. We cannot escape the long reach of the law. But laws can't remain static. Laws on what you could wear in mediaeval Scotland, for example, wouldn't necessarily be appropriate for today's society. Neither would laws relating to such things as equality, ownership, and rights, such as the right to vote.

Society changes, and so laws must change too. The legal system of the society within which we live often sets our expectations of what a legal system should be. And this course has been designed so you can explore the legal system in Scotland and how today's system emerged from its mediaeval roots.

You'll also consider how and why that system has had influence on a global scale and has come to be held in high regard. You'll discover the important part played by individuals in developing the legal system, and without whom things may have been very different. The work, dedication, and passion of these Scottish legal heroes provides the bedrock for change and advancement. And you'll learn about how to structure a challenge to a decision of a public body, a useful lifelong skill, and one which you could use to make a difference.