

KATE SIGNORINI: Hello, and welcome to the course. I'm Kate Signorini, and I work at the Open University in Scotland. On this course, you'll explore the role and the work of the Scottish Parliament.

You may have already encountered some of the work the Scottish Parliament through watching parliamentary debates between MSPs or listened to First Minister's questions. But the work of the Scottish Parliament goes beyond this and beyond political boundaries. It plays an important role in making laws which shape our society and in holding government to account. In this course, you'll consider its role in making laws.

Laws reflect the society and culture within which they're made, developed, and applied. The law isn't static. Lawmaking is also heavily influenced by change, whether political, social, economic, or technological. You'll consider aspects of this as you explore the role and work of the Scottish Parliament.

At the end of the course, you'll explore how you can become involved in its work. The Scottish Parliament is recognised as being one of the most progressive parliaments in Europe. Its commitment to accessibility and proactive engagement with communities and the public is widely respected and recognised. Throughout the course, there'll be activities to provide an opportunity to try out some key legal skills. And there'll be quizzes to test how much you've learned. Enjoy your journey.