UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

# Module Descriptor

| Module Details | |
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| Module Title | Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation |
| Module Code | ARC4016-B |
| Academic Year | 2024/5 |
| Credits | 20 |
| School | School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences |
| FHEQ Level | FHEQ Level 4 |

| Contact Hours | |
|---|---|
| Type | Hours |
| Lectures | 32 |
| Laboratories | 22 |
| Directed Study | 146 |

| Availability | |
|---|---|
| Occurrence | Location / Period |
| BDA | University of Bradford / Academic Year |

| Module Aims |
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| To introduce:(1) the scope, methods and limitations of crime scene examination and forensic enquiry in the crime to court process, (2) main evidence types in volume, major and serious crimes(3) To provide hands-on experience of laboratory casework and crime scene examination |

## Outline Syllabus

To outline the aims of evidence collection from a scene of crime to show commonality and individuality of contact trace evidence; to outline the principals involved in the collection, preservation, examination and interpretation of evidence (e.g. fingerprint and footwear
impressions, tool-marks, fibres, glass, body fluids, soil, etc.). The module introduces the role of the forensic practitioner and the importance of forensic standards ISO 17020 and ISO 17025.

Lectures: Introduction to Forensic Science, Crime Scene to Court Process. Scenes of Crime: The role of crime scene investigators in the preservation, recovery and recording of evidence at the scene of crime and evaluation of crime scene evidence. Overview of Forensic Science in the UK: Police Forces Scientific Support in relation to other Forensic Agencies. Overview of physical evidence including DNA, Toxicology, footwear and tool marks, finger-marks. Introduction to forensic evidence associated with arson, explosions and firearms. Courts and their structure. Giving expert testimony; evidence-in-chief and cross-examination. Admissibility of forensic evidence in Court: differences between UK and USA. Writing of laboratory reports and expert witness statements. Health and safety issues at scenes and in forensic examination.

Practical: Practical crime scene examination for different types of simulated crime scene.

Practical examination and recovery of physical evidence in the laboratory including examination of exhibits from a simple simulated case.

## Learning Outcomes

| Outcome Number | Description |
|---|---|
| 01 | Describe a broad range of forensic evidence including approaches to its documentation, recovery and analysis. |
| 02 | Describe some scenes of crime and forensic laboratory procedures, give a detailed account of the process of criminal investigation from crime scene to court with particular reference to the role of the major participants (police/forensic providers/pathologist/other experts/CPS), appreciate key concepts such as integrity, continuity, persistence and technical issues. |
| 03 | Search a range of crime scenes, document, collect and package evidence, prepare laboratory submission forms, recover contact trace material in practical forensic examination, and write a simple expert report. . |
| 04 | Recognise important health and safety issues. . . |
| 05 | Write concise notes and produce written documentation to a proscribed format. |
| 06 | Work in group to achieve goal in limited time frame. |

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Teaching will be in full class lectures, simulated crime scene and practical forensic laboratory classes.

The examination at the end of semester 1 will test for a broad understanding of the application of forensic science to the criminal justice system, while in semester 2 the assessment is based around writing contemporaneous notes and an expert witness statement relating to a simple simulated crime scene.

| Mode of Assessment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type | Method | Description | Weighting |
| Summative | Examination - MCQ | Closed book/MCQ examination in semester 1 (1.5 Hours) | 50% |
| Summative | Coursework - Written | Coursework in Semester 2 (2000 words) | 50% |

| Reading List |
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| To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html |

*Please note:*
*This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*

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