

Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation

Module Code:	ARC4016-B
Academic Year:	2018-19
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
Subject Area:	Forensic Science
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 4

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Lectures	32
Laboratory	22
Directed Study	146

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Academic Year (Sept - May)

Module Aims

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.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

- 1 Describe a broad range of forensic evidence including approaches to its documentation, recovery and analysis.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 Recognise important health and safety issues.
- 5 Write concise notes and produce written documentation to a proscribed format.
- 6 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	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Summative	Examination - closed book	Closed book/MCQ examination in semester 2	1.5 hours	50%	Yes
Summative	Coursework	Coursework in semester 1	-2000 words	50%	No

Legacy Code (if applicable)

Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).