

Professional Development: Forensic Enquiry and Critical Case Study

Module Code:	ARC6026-B
Academic Year:	2018-19
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
Subject Area:	Forensic Science
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 6
Module Leader:	Dr Andrew Wilson

Additional Tutors:

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Tutorials	12
Directed Study	188

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims

To provide students with opportunities to utilise varied types of source materials and autonomously research in detail a topic of current relevance in the field of scientific investigation in forensic casework, and to critically appraise a case in which forensic investigation or police practice has been shown to be flawed or questioned.

Outline Syllabus

Choose a topic, source appropriate reference material and write a critical review on a topic of choice addressing scientific, forensic and/or legal issues. This is also an opportunity to pitch to both specific and general audiences through written and oral communication.

A critical review of a topical subject that relates directly to criminal investigation could draw from Accident reconstruction, Accounting, Agencies, Ammunition, Analysis, Anatomy, Animation, Anthropology, Archaeology, Arson, Art, Autopsy, Ballistics, Biochemistry, Biometrics, Biology, Blood splatter, Bloodstain, Body fluids, Botany, Canine, Chemistry, Communications, Computing, Crime, Crime Scene, Criminal Justice, Criminal profiling, Criminology, Courts, DNA profiling, Dentistry, Document examination, Drugs of abuse, Earology, Education, Engineering, Enhancement, Entomology, Ethics, Expert Witness, Explosives, Facial reconstruction, Fingerprints, Firearms, Fire Scene, Footwear, Fraud, Geographic profiling, Hair and fibres, Human identification, Imaging, Journalism, Laboratory, Law/legislation, Management, Mathematics, Media, Medicine, Meteorology, Microanalysis, Microscopy, Nursing, Odontology, Offences, Optometry, Palynology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Photography, Physics, Policing, Police scientific support, Profiling, Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychological profiling, Reconstruction, Scene of Crime, Science, Serology, Statistics, Technology, Toolmarks, Toxicology, Trauma, and Zoology.

Case studies can examine the circumstances surrounding a miscarriage of justice eg the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, O J Simpson.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

- 1 Evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline, in particular, a systemic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, within contemporary forensic or police investigation.
- 2 Communicate a detailed account of one area of contemporary forensic or police investigation addressing scientific, forensic and legal issues.
- 3 Appreciate uncertainty and ambiguity in published accounts of forensic casework, review forensic and police approaches to criminal investigation and explain how the criminal justice system has reviewed and responded to alleged and actual miscarriages of justice.
- 4 Deal with complex issues (both systematically and creatively), make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 5 Show originality in the application of forensic knowledge, together with a practical awareness of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in forensic science.
- 6 Demonstrate self-direction in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing research.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Students will be supported in their learning through a series of workshops and tutorials which will provide an overview of research resources specific to forensic science and a

review of academic referencing protocol. These sessions will also provide tips on organising information and dissemination using written and oral presentation methods.

The emphasis will be on developing research and communication skills through group-working and problem-based learning and will incorporate the use of organisational tools such as mind-maps. Specific topics for the assessed oral presentation will be concerned with the failings of either forensic science or police practice that have led to miscarriages of justice. Specific topics for written communication will be based around current areas of research/practice within forensic science.

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Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Summative	Presentation	Oral presentation	15 minutes	20%	No
Summative	Coursework	Extended essay	0-3200 words	80%	Yes

Legacy Code (if applicable)

Reading List

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