

## Professional Development: Forensic Enquiry and Critical Case Study

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Module Code:       | ARC7047-B                                              |
| Academic Year:     | 2018-19                                                |
| Credit Rating:     | 20                                                     |
| School:            | School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences         |
| Subject Area:      | Forensic Science                                       |
| FHEQ Level:        | FHEQ Level 7 (Masters)                                 |
| Module Leader:     | Dr Andrew Wilson                                       |
| Additional Tutors: |                                                        |
| Pre-requisites:    | Forensic Examination and Analysis of Physical Evidence |
| 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 and 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 & write a critical review on a topic of choice addressing scientific, forensic &/or legal issues. This is also an opportunity to pitch to both specific & general audiences through written & 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 & 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, Zoology.

Case studies can examine the circumstances surrounding a miscarriage of justice e.g. the Gilford 4, the Birmingham 6, O J Simpson.

## **Module Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1 Critically 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 Demonstrate an ability to communicate a detailed account of one area of contemporary forensic or police investigation addressing scientific, forensic and legal issues.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 Appreciate uncertainty and ambiguity in published accounts of forensic casework, critically 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.
- 6 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing research. You will use time and study management skills and will practice communication skills in report writing and in delivering an oral presentation. You will continue to advance your knowledge and understanding by developing independent research skills to a high level.

## **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.

### Mode of Assessment

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

### Legacy Code (if applicable)

### Reading List

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