

Module Details	
Module Title	Forensic Biology
Module Code	ARC5032-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	21
Seminars	2
Online Seminar (Synchronous)	1
Tutorials	2
Interactive Learning Objects	2
Practical Classes or Workshops	2
Laboratories	8
Independent Study	162

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
To provide an understanding of how biological evidence can be used in forensic cases

Outline Syllabus
Overview of morphology; human body fluids, blood pattern analysis, decay of human tissues, and DNA applications and molecular taxonomy in forensic sciences. An introduction to taxonomy; use of insects in time of death estimation; identification and interpretation of pollen profiles, plant fragments and poisonous plants in a criminal justice context. An introduction to biogeography, and the use of pollen, plant fragments and in situ plant species in crime scene investigation. Wildlife forensics and the detection of illegal trade in plant and animal species. Topics will cover both botanical and zoological applications using case studies throughout.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Understand the principles behind the identification of the major invertebrate groups, plant fragments, poisonous plants and common pollen, insect and faunal remains recovered from forensic scenes, and the implications for the use of biological evidence in forensic cases
02	Critically assess the theoretical and practical issues surrounding the preservation, recovery, analysis and interpretation of biological materials that are commonly encountered within forensic contexts
03	Integrate evidence drawn from diverse sources to assess forensic contexts
04	Defend conclusions based on biological data in a forensic context.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
Concepts will be taught through synchronous lectures; identification skills will be taught through laboratory classes, plus online materials on taxonomy as part of Directed Study; online seminars will enable discussion of concepts; online learning packages will be associated with the synchronous lectures. Formative assessment will involve online quizzes about taxonomic identification and interpretation. Summative assessment will be by written briefing reports based on interpretation of data, and an MCQ examination.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Examination - MCQ	MCQ (1 Hour)	30%
Summative	Coursework	Briefing Report (1200 words)	30%
Summative	Coursework	Briefing Report (1500 words)	40%
Formative	Other form of assessment	Identification quizzes	N/A

Reading List
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.