

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

**Code:** USSJRY-30-M

**Title:** Advanced Crime Scene Science

**Version:** 1

**Level:** M

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Module type:** Standard

**Owning Faculty:** Health and Life Sciences

**Field:** Applied Sciences

**Faculty Committee approval:** Quality and Standards Committee

**Date:** April 2011

**Approved for Delivery by:** N/A

**Valid from:** September 2012

**Discontinued from:**

**Pre-requisites:**

None

**Co-requisites:**

None

**Entry Requirements:**

N/A

**Excluded Combinations:**

None

**Learning Outcomes:**

The student will be able to:

- develop, explain and justify according to national occupational standards (NOS) and rationally explain strategies for the investigation of various types of crime scenes and best practice;
- competently investigate a variety of crime scenes through:
  - performing the roles of scene-attending personnel up to and including that of crime scene manager;
  - assessing, preserving, recovering and storing physical evidence;
  - documenting scenes through contemporaneous records, statements, drawings and photographic methods;
- critically evaluate and appraise new developments in crime scene investigation

**Syllabus Outline:**

- Special evidence types: e.g. pollen, soil, plant material, insects
- Volume Crime Personnel and Procedures; Good practice in Crime Scene Examination.
- Major Crime Scenes: roles of personnel, procedures, requirements. Specialist personnel. Practical exercises: a variety of mock scenes of serious crime;
- Mass disasters (major accidents or natural disasters)
- War crimes
- Quality assurance (training, NOS, the Forensic Regulator, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), performance monitoring);
- Special Scenes (incl. advanced methods of evidence recovery) with some practical exercises, such as fire scenes, scenes involving firearms, explosions, vehicle investigation, outdoor scenes, clandestine burials, underwater forensics, terrorist crime, computer crime, drug laboratories;
- Special equipment: Alternative light sources, enhancement techniques, ground penetrating radar, chemical sniffers/ mobile labs, real time PCR (chip technology), drug testing kits, crime scene measuring equipment.

### Teaching and Learning Methods:

The module will be primarily delivered in the form of lectures, workshops, tutorials and practical exercises. Some lectures will be open to the forensic science community for CPD purposes.

### Reading Strategy:

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Any **essential reading** will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be expected to purchase a set text, be given or sold a print study pack or be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on Blackboard or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

If **further reading** is expected, this will be indicated clearly. If specific texts are listed, a clear indication will be given regarding how to access them and, if appropriate, students will be given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves, e.g. through use of bibliographical databases.

### Indicative Reading List:

Aspects of the syllabus are covered in the most recent editions of books such as:

- Pepper I, Crime Scene Investigation, Methods and Procedures, Open University Press
- Sutton R & Trueman K (ed), Crime Scene Management, Wiley
- Cook T & Tattersall A, Blackstone's Senior Investigating Officers' Handbook, Oxford University Press
- Crime Scene Investigation books and chapters of books, including specialised texts on Forensic Netbase

Official Publications, such as

- ACPO Investigation of Volume Crime Manual
- ACPO Murder Investigation Manual
- ACPO Road Death Investigation Manual
- Skills For Justice National Occupational Standards

Journals:

- Forensic Science International
- Science and Justice

### Assessment:

**Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 50% B: 50%**

#### FIRST ATTEMPT

##### First Assessment Opportunity

##### Component A (*controlled*)

Description of each element

EX1 Exam (3 hours) assessment period 2

##### Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

**Final Assessment** 1

##### Component B

Description of each element

CW1 Practical crime scene examination, including full documentation

##### Element Wt (Ratio)

(*within Component*)

1

**Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) further attendance at taught classes is not required**

**Component A** (*controlled*)

Description of each element

EX2 Exam (3 hours) assessment period 3

**Element Wt (Ratio)**

(*within Component*)

*Final Assessment* 1

**Component B**

Description of each element

CW2 Practical crime scene examination, including full documentation

**Element Wt (Ratio)**

(*within Component*)

1

**EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT Attendance at taught classes is required.**

**Specification confirmed by** ..... **Date** .....  
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)