University of the West of England
BRISTOL

CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Forensic Evidence					
Module Code	USSJT4-30-2		Level	2	Version	1.1
Owning Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences		Field	Applied Sciences		
Contributes towards	LLB (Hons) M300 BA (Hons) Criminology and Law MM19SM BA (Hons) Law with Psychology M1C8					
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	Module Type	Standard	
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	Scientific Investigation of Crime USSJRV-30-1		Module Entry requirements			
Valid From	September 2015		Valid to	September 2021		

CAP Approval Date	19 November 2015

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: • discuss how scientific investigations of crime are undertaken (component A) • critically evaluate the examination of crime scenes (component B, element 1) • indicate the appropriate scientific technique for the examination of different forensic samples (component A, component B, element 2) • explain the basic scientific principles of the techniques studied (component A) • discuss the evaluation of the strength of evidence for a range of evidence types (component A) • evaluate the significance of forensic evidence in a range of case studies (component B, element 2) • discuss the regulation of Forensic Science in the UK and the role of expert witnesses (component A)
Syllabus Outline	• Overview of forensic evidence – scope and significance in the Criminal Justice System • Crime scene to court – continuity of evidence and issues of contamination • Crime scene investigation – principles and procedures • Types of forensic evidence – sources, examination methods and potential evidential value. Evidence types to be discussed will include a range of biological

	samples for presumptive testing and DNA analysis, fingerprints, footwear marks, fibres, hair, paint, glass, drugs, fire accelerants, explosives, firearms discharge residues, documents and evidence from outdoor crime scenes. • Scientific techniques used to examine a range of types of forensic evidence, including the principles on which they are based. • Evaluation of forensic evidence for legal proceedings and communication in written and oral forms. • Admissibility of forensic evidence in court. • The role of an expert witness in court. • Regulation of Forensic Science in the UK.
Contact Hours/Scheduled Hours	72 hours contact time in total, made up of 48 hours of lectures, 5 hours of topic-based tutorials, 3 hours of Virtual World training, 10 hours of support tutorials and 6 hours of practical exercises in either the crime scene house or the science laboratories.
Teaching and Learning Methods	Students are expected to spend 72 hours on scheduled learning and 228 hours on independent learning. Independent learning will take the following forms with an approximate indication of time required for each: • Essential reading to support acquisition of knowledge relating to lectures and practical exercises – 96 hours • Researching case studies, including watching videos of documentary material as directed in preparation for in-class assessments – 30 hours • Revision of crime scene investigation principles and procedures and preparation individually and with group members for crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours • Practising crime scene investigation principles and procedures and preparation individually and with group members in the virtual world of Second Life® for crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours • Preparation and submission of Streamlined Forensic Report and critical evaluation of crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours • Revision and preparation for exam, including for support tutorials – 72 hours **Scheduled learning** includes lectures, tutorials, demonstrations and practical classes. **Independent learning** includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc
Reading Strategy	Students are encouraged to buy at least one text for this module; a list of recommended titles is provided in the module handbook and a copy of each is provided in the Library. All students are encouraged to read widely using the library catalogue, a variety of bibliographic and full text databases and Internet resources. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Guidance to some key authors and journal titles available through the Library will be given in the Module Guide and updated annually. Assignment reference lists are expected to reflect the range of reading carried out. Students are expected to be able to identify and retrieve appropriate reading. This module offers an opportunity to further develop information skills introduced at Level 1. Students will be given the opportunity to attend the APT sessions on

	selection of appropriate databases and search skills. Additional support is available through the Library Services web pages, including interactive tutorials on finding books and journals, evaluating information and referencing. Sign up workshops are also offered by the Library.
Indicative Reading List	*The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.* *Jackson, A.R.W. & Jackson, J.M. 3rd edition (2011) *Forensic Science*, Pearson Education Ltd. Butler, J.M. (2009) *Fundamentals of Forensic DNA Typing*, Academic Press. Payne-James, J, Jones, R, Karch, S and Manlove, J, 13th Ed (2011) *Simpson's Forensic Medicine*, Hodder Education. Robertson B & Vignaux G A, (1995) *Interpreting Evidence - Evaluating Forensic Science in the Courtroom*, John Wiley and Sons. Saferstein, R. 10th edition (2010), *Criminalistics – An Introduction to Forensic Science*, Prentice Hall. Siegel JA (Ed in chief) 2nd Edition (2013) *Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences*, Academic Press. Townley, L and Ede, R, (2004) *Forensic Practice in Criminal Cases*, The Law Society. White, P.C. (Ed.) 3rd edition (2010) *Crime Scene to Court: The Essentials of Forensic Science*, The Royal Society of Chemistry. *Recommended text

Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	• A written examination is an effective vehicle for assessing a student's knowledge and understanding of many aspects of this material. (Summative) • The crime scene investigation assessment provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to apply the principles of this task to an unfamiliar situation and evidence their skills in approaching it appropriately. (Summative) • The in-class tests using personal response systems are effective in assessing a student's engagement with issues pertinent to recent cases and understanding thereof. Additionally they can be used to assess some straightforward aspects of knowledge of the taught material and thus reduce the revision load for the written exam. (Summative) • Tutorial sessions discussing and outlining the strategy for answering exam questions, with peer assessment using guidelines from the lecturer will constitute preparation for the written examination. (Formative with feedback) • A tutorial session reviewing the performance of students in a crime scene investigation exercise will prepare students for an assessment in this area. (Formative with feedback) • In-class tests will be held to introduce the technology and approach as well as the types of issues to be assessed in this way. (Formative

	with feedback) • The crime scene investigation assessment will be performed in groups of approximately 4. 50% of the mark will be the same for each member of the group as they are jointly responsible for ensuring that these tasks are completed satisfactorily. A member of staff will be viewing the exercise and an adjustment can be made for exceptional performance/contribution or lack of contribution. The remainder of the mark for this assessment is the individual work of each student completed after the exercise. • The generic assessment criteria used in the Department of Biological, Biomedical and Analytical Sciences, and made available to students, will be used for all assessments.

Identify final assessment component and element	**Component A**	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**A:** **50%**	**B**: **50%**

First Sit	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Examination (2 hours) assessment period 2	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Crime scene investigation assessment and submission of a Streamlined Forensic Report with brief critical evaluation	50%
2. Series of in-class tests using personal response systems based on directed reading on cases and lecture material	50%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Examination (2 hours) assessment period 3	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Critical evaluation of crime scene investigation documentation (1500 word limit)	50%
2. Report on case studies and selection of appropriate techniques for different forensic samples. (15 00 word limit)	50%
If a student is permitted an **EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE** of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	