



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Forensic Science and Society				
Module Code	USSKMA-15-M	Level	M	Version	1
Owning Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Department of Applied Sciences.		
Department	Applied Sciences				
Contributes towards	MSci Forensic Science				
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5	Module Type	Standard
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	None	
Valid From	September 2016		Valid to	September 2022	

CAP Approval Date	
--------------------------	--

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand in depth issues relating to forensic science of relevance to society (component A) Critically evaluate the media presentation and reporting of forensic evidence and prepare appropriate accurate reports (component B) Critically appraise the legal framework and processes relating to forensic science (component A) Appraise relevant policing strategies, aspects of offender profiling and punishment as they relate to the forensic investigation of crimes (component A)
Syllabus Outline	<p>Forensic Science issues of relevance to society Public perception of forensic scientific evidence especially in the light of media portrayal. Reality of the certainty of results, their interpretation and presentation to court. The regulation of forensic science and its role regarding public confidence. The limitations of forensic scientific evidence and background data for its interpretation.</p> <p>Communication regarding forensic evidence Communication skills required by forensic scientists and their modes of communication. Interactions with law enforcement professionals and the media, and media portrayal of forensic science (both in fiction and case reporting).</p> <p>Legal issues relating to forensic evidence The current legal framework within which forensic evidence is required and is used. The role of the jury and decision making regarding forensic evidence and expert witnesses. The influence of media reporting before trials. Civil liberty issues with</p>

databases and forensic investigations.

Aspects of criminology and forensic psychology

Types of offenders and their treatment following prosecution. The role of forensic science in policing and criminal investigation strategy.

Transferable Skills

Development of skills in this multidisciplinary area (involving aspects of science, law, criminology, forensic psychology and science communication) benefits communication with professionals in a range of environments. Critical evaluation of the investigation, prosecution and reporting of criminal cases. Engagement with current issues relating to forensic science of interest and relevance to society.

Contact Hours

This module will run in semester 1. Students will have a 3 hour session each week which will be an integrated mixture of lectures and tutorial style activities.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Scheduled Learning

The theoretical underpinning of the module is delivered through an online lecture series. Students are supported in their learning at timetabled -weekly tutorial sessions.

Independent Learning

It is additionally expected that students will spend a significant proportion of the study time for this module engaging with relevant literature and case studies, as directed by academic staff and will attend court cases. It is expected that independent study will take students to the notional 150 hours of study associated with this module.

Key Information Sets Information

Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set - Module data				
<i>Number of credits for this module</i>				15
Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
150	36	114	0	150



The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

Written Exam: Unseen written exam.

Coursework: Case study report.

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not

necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Total assessment of the module:				
Written exam assessment percentage				50%
Coursework assessment percentage				50%
Practical exam assessment percentage				0%
				100%

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

The following texts are particularly recommended:

Byers, M. and Johnson, V.M. (2009) *The CSI Effect: Television, Crime and Governance (Critical Studies in Television)*. Lexington Books. ISBN: 978-0739124710

Wilkinson, C. and Weitkamp, E. (2016) *Creative Research Communication*, Manchester University Press. ISBN: 978-0-7190-9651-8

Jackson, G., Aitken, C. and Roberts, P. (2014) *Communicating and Interpreting Statistical Evidence in the Administration of Criminal Justice Part 4. Case Assessment and Interpretation of Expert Evidence - Guidance for Judges, Lawyers, Forensic Scientists and Expert Witnesses*. Royal Statistical Society.

Crighton, D. A. and Towl, G. J. (2015). *Forensic Psychology*. (BPS Textbooks in Psychology), Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1118757789

Journals

Study of this module will require students to engage with the research literature in a range of disciplines. Students have access to a huge range of electronic journals free through membership of the university library. Of particular relevance to this module are *Science and Justice*, *Psychology, Crime and the Law* and *Public Understanding of Science*. Journal articles of relevance to a particular lecture will be indicated by the academic leading the session.

Assessment Strategy	<p>Coursework (50%)</p> <p>Critical evaluation of media reporting of forensic evidence in a specific criminal case. As the final section of the assignment students will be required to prepare an appropriate accurate account of the forensic evidence in the case. Students will be introduced to the coursework, including the detailed marking scheme, during the taught sessions. This coursework will enable students to evaluate in depth current practice and evidence their understanding and communication skills in the production of an appropriate report.</p> <p>Examination: 1.5 hours (50%)</p> <p>The controlled component is a written exam. The exams will be 1.5 hours duration, which is consistent with the Department's assessment strategy for Level M modules. This assessment will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate both their knowledge and ability for critical evaluation over a broad range of topics through a selection of essay questions. This assessment will test a range of the learning outcomes and will provide a valuable learning experience.</p>
---------------------	---

Identify final assessment component and element		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	50%	50%
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. 1.5 hour examination	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Case study report	100%	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. 1.5 hour examination	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
Case study report	100%	
<p>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.</p>		