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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Forensic Practice

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Reference | AS3080 | Version | 3 |
| Created | March 2017 | SCQF Level | SCQF 9 |
| Approved | April 2010 | SCQF Points | 15 |
| Amended | June 2017 | ECTS Points | 7.5 |

Aims of Module

To provide law students with an understanding of forensic science practice, the different areas of forensic expertise and the underlying theory, strengths and limitations of different types of forensic evidence. To understand the skills required for the presentation of scientific evidence.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Describe the roles of personnel involved in forensic investigations.
- 2 Explain a range of evidence types and appraise their importance in forensic investigations.
- 3 Explain the role of the forensic scientist within the legal process.
- 4 Carry out a practical forensic examination, including evidence recovery exercise and assessment.

Indicative Module Content

Organisation of forensic science provision in the UK, forensic science disciplines & personnel. Crime Scene Examination, laboratory examination and analysis. Types of evidence: drugs, toxicology, impressions & marks, trace evidence, firearms, questioned documents, fire examination, DNA, other specialisms. The role of the forensic scientist within the criminal justice system. Interpretation, evaluation of the strength of evidence and presentation.

Module Delivery

The module will be delivered by a series of lectures with supplementary tutorials. Students will also undertake some forensic laboratory exercises.

Indicative Student Workload

| | Full Time | Part Time |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Contact Hours | 36 | 36 |
| Non-Contact Hours | 114 | 114 |
| Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours | N/A | N/A |
| TOTAL | 150 | 150 |
| <i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i> | | |

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type: Examination Weighting: 70% Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3
 Description: Closed book exam with 70% weighting

Component 2

Type: Coursework Weighting: 30% Outcomes Assessed: 4
 Description: Laboratory based research exercise with 30% weighting

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The Module is assessed by two components: C1 - Examination - 70% weighting. C2 - Coursework - 30% weighting. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

| Module Grade | Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade: |
|--------------|--|
| A | overall mark greater than or equal to 70% and minimum of 35% in C1 and C2 |
| B | overall mark greater than or equal to 60% and minimum of 35% in C1 and C2 |
| C | overall mark greater than or equal to 50% and minimum of 35% in C1 and C2 |
| D | overall mark greater than or equal to 40% and minimum of 35% in C1 and C2 |
| E | overall mark greater than or equal to 35% and minimum of 35% in C1 and C2 |
| F | overall mark less than 35% and/or less than 35% in C1 or C2 |
| NS | Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination |

Module Requirements

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Prerequisites for Module | None |
| Corequisites for module | None |
| Precluded Modules | None |

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- JACKSON, A.R.W. and JACKSON, J.M., 2011. *Forensic science*. 3rd Ed. Essex: Pearson Education Ltd.
- JAMES, S.H. and NORDBY, J.L., 2009. *Forensic science: an introduction to scientific and investigative techniques*. 3rd Ed. Boca Raton: CRC Press.
- TOWNLEY, L. and EDE, R., 2004. *Forensic practice in criminal cases*. London: Law Society.