ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN

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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Forensic Biology and Anthropology

Reference	AS3240	Version	2
Created	August 2021	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	March 2018	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2021	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To provide students with the knowledge and skills to analyse biological evidence and skeletal remains using biological laboratory techniques employed in forensic science.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

1	Discuss the theoretical basis and practical applications of forensic tests used in the examination of a range of biological materials.
2	Evaluate the suitable methods used to recover biological evidence and skeletal remains.
3	Discuss the biological profiling of skeletal remains using anthropological techniques.
4	Evaluate the role of biological forensics and anthropology in forensic investigations and legal proceedings.

Indicative Module Content

Recovery scene methods; forensic examination methods; analysis of body samples (blood; semen; faeces; saliva; epithelia); bloodstain pattern analysis; determination of origin of spatter pattern; entomological evidence and its application; pollen, spores, algae and plant material as evidence; biological profiling of skeletal remains (age; sex; ancestry; height; medical and dental history); DNA profiling; evidence of trauma on skeletal remains (projectile; blunt; sharp; miscellaneous); estimation of post-mortem period and determination of post-mortem events; forensic examination of mass graves.

Module Delivery

This is a lecture based module supplemented with tutorials and practical laboratory classes.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	42	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	108	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

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 written examination.				

Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
Description:	Oral presentation on set topic.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

The first grade represents Component 1 (EX1) weighted as major and the second, Component 2 (CW1), weighted as minor. A minimum module grade of D is required for a pass, with compensation of grade E in Component 1 or Component 2 permitted. Non-submission of either component will result in an NS grade.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	AA, AB
B	AC, AD, AE, BA, BB, BC, CA
C	BD, BE, CB, CC, CD, DA, DB
D	CE, DC, DD, DE, EA, EB, EC
E	AF, BF, CF, DF, ED, EE, EF, FA, FB, FC, FD
F	FE, FF
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	Successful completion of stage 2 of Forensic and Analytical Science or equivalent.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1 BYERS, S.N. *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology.* Current Edition. Routledge; Abingdon

2 JAMES, S.H., KISH, P.E. and SUTTON, T.P. *Principles of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis: Theory and Practice.* Current Edition. CRC Press: Boca Raton

3 JAMES, S.H., NORDBY, J.J. and BELL, S. *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques.* Current Edition. CRC Press: Boca Raton.

4 LI, R. *Forensic Biology.* Current Edition. CRC Press: Boca Raton.

5 LANGFORD, A.M., DEAN, J.R., REED, R., HOLMES, D. A., WEYERS, J. and JONES, A. *Practical Skills in Forensic Science.* Current Edition. Prentice Hall; New Jersey.

6 WONDER, A.Y. *Bloodstain Patterns: Identification, Interpretation and Application.* Current Edition. Academic Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts.