

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Evidence: Law and Psychology

Reference	LL4306	Version	2
Created	August 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	June 2017	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2023	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

Law: To critically analyse some key issues and theories around admissibility and sufficiency of evidence in criminal and civil cases in the UK and elsewhere. In addition, to consider some of the main practical issues that can arise in presenting evidence in courts or tribunals. Psychology: To analyse psychological theories and practices as they apply in the legal evidential environment, for instance police investigative practices in criminal cases, competency to stand trial issues and cross-examination techniques.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Discuss and debate the theoretical underpinning of some of the key concepts in the law of evidence.
- 2 Critically analyse the justification for certain procedural barriers to the presentation of evidence.
- 3 Compare and contrast the content of key evidential concepts in Scotland with equivalent provision in other jurisdictions.
- 4 Discuss and critically analyse psychological perspectives on commonly used investigative techniques.
- 5 Critically evaluate the contribution of theoretical and applied psychology to the legal setting.

Indicative Module Content

Law: Key concepts in civil and criminal evidence; sufficiency of evidence; admissibility of evidence including confessions and search; artificiality of the courtroom; techniques in the examination of witnesses; expert evidence peculiarities; common law jurisdictions considered Psychology: Psychological theories of crime, interviewing, offender profiling, risk and recidivism, eyewitness testimony, role of the forensic psychologist, memory and memory disorders.

Module Delivery

This is a lecture and seminar based module. Lectures provide core module content. Seminars develop associated higher level skills through student centred learning.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	36	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	114	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
<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:	Coursework	Weighting:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Description:	Written coursework exercise				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The calculation of the overall grade for this module is based on 100% weighting of C1. An overall minimum Grade D is required to pass the module.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	The student needs to achieve an A in C1
B	The student needs to achieve a B in C1
C	The student needs to achieve a C in C1
D	The student needs to achieve a D in C1
E	The student needs to achieve an E in C1
F	The student needs to achieve an F in C1
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	LL2246 Law of Evidence
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 BLACKBURN, R., 1995. *The psychology of criminal conduct: theory, research and practice*. 2nd ed. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd.
- 2 BULL, R. and CARSON, D., eds. 2003. *Handbook of psychology in legal contexts*. 2nd ed. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd. *ebook*
- 3 CWIK, C.H. and NORTH, J.L., 2003. *Scientific evidence review: admissibility and use of expert evidence in the courtroom*. New York: American Bar Association.
- 4 DAVIDSON, F., 2007. *Evidence*. Edinburgh: W.Green.
- 5 GUDJONSSON, G. H., 1993. *The psychology of interrogations, confessions and testimony*. New York: John Wiley and Sons Ltd. *ebook*
- 6 REDMAYNE, M. and ROBERTS, P., eds., 2007. *Innovations in evidence and proof: integrating theory, research and teaching*. Oxford: Hart Publishing. *ebook*