

Short Form Module Details

Module Title	Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists
Level	Level 5
Reference No. (<i>showing level</i>)	ASC-5-422
Credit Value	20 Credits
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 36 hours contact with teaching staff Student-managed learning hours: 120 hours of self-study plus preparation for assessments
Pre-requisite learning	Introduction to Law for Forensic Scientists
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Module co-ordinator	Louise Powell-Cook
Faculty/Department	School of Applied Sciences
Short Description	<p>This module is designed to introduce forensic science students to criminal law. That is, to introduce non-law students to the basic principles of criminal procedure and liability, exploring the statutory and common law sources on which the law is based.</p> <p>Students are guided through a linear approach to the operation of the criminal process, starting with the institutions and terminology of the criminal law, through the law relating to police powers and aspects of substantive criminal law.</p>
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These include – • To build upon material covered in the Introduction to Forensic Science module and to provide students with an introduction to the language and principles underpinning the operation of the criminal justice system. • To enable students to gain an understanding of how the criminal court system operates, including the appeal processes. • To enable students to understand how primary legal sources such as case law and statutes are used to

	<p>justify and influence judicial decision making and legislative developments.</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students successfully completing this module will be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The operation of the general principles of criminal liability as they have developed in English Law; ▪ The key legal institutions operating in the sphere of criminal justice; ▪ The main police powers relating to the investigation of crime. ▪ The relationship between the criminal law and the facts in issue in a criminal trial; <p>● Intellectual Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students successfully completing the module will be able to demonstrate an ability to understand and apply the principles of criminal law to a given scenario ○ <p>● Practical Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students successfully completing this module will have demonstrated the development of: ○ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication skills - through participation in seminar discussions and argument and through the preparation of assessments ▪ ▪ IT skills- through the research required in preparation for seminar questions for small group sessions; through the use of Moodle for accessing module documents, announcements and email communications with teaching staff . ▪ ▪ Legal study skills - the teaching materials direct students to a range of sources that

	<p>can used to develop their subject knowledge and further their interest in the module. On completion of the module students should be able to conduct basic independent research into different aspects of criminal law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transferable Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students successfully completing the module will have demonstrated an ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organise, plan and prioritise self-managed scholarly work using original materials; ▪ Prepare materials according to assignment briefings to meet time critical deadlines; ▪ Evaluate and text opposing arguments with a view to rationalising stated preferences for a given line of reasoning, supported by appropriate authority
Employability skills	<p>This module will provide the skills highlighted above, all of which are valuable for employment.</p> <p>The module will afford students, additionally the opportunity to enhance their literacy skills and their skills of analysis and argument, this will benefit them for future employment whether within the field of forensic science or as transferrable skills to an alternative field of work.</p>
Teaching and learning pattern	<p><u>Lectures</u> – There will be one 2 hour lecture per week to present the main issues supported by two hour fortnightly seminars.</p> <p><u>Seminars</u> – These will be in the form of exercises and discussion to promote the development of the thinking, analytical, argumentation and communication skills which underpin legal study.</p> <p>To further assist this, the seminar group will be smaller in number and students allocated to a specific seminar group for continuity.</p>
Supporting Seminars	As above

Indicative content	<p>This module will cover an introduction to English criminal law and include topics such as -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the criminal justice institutions – the court system – the CPS – politicians – current issues for debate and reform – sources of criminal law – impact of Human Rights Act 1998. • Police Powers – an overview of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. • The prosecution process – charging a suspect – the role of the CPS – the procedure in the criminal trial – judicial discretion regarding the exclusion of evidence - the appeal system – admitting fresh evidence – the role of the Criminal Cases Review Commission. • The elements of criminal liability - types of actus reus – liability for failing to act – the presumption in favour of mens rea – types of mens rea – types of liability – inchoate – accessorial. • Introduction to homicide 1: causing death – the mental element in murder. • Introduction to homicide 2: Voluntary manslaughter – problems posed by corporate liability. • Non-fatal offences against the person – GBH – wounding – ABH – assault & battery – poisoning offences – consent to harm as a defence. • Sexual offences – indecent assault – rape – abuse of trust • Non-fraudulent property offences – theft- robbery- burglary – blackmail- handling • Defences 1: Defences that relate to the defendant’s state of mind – sane and insane automatism – intoxication. • Defences 2: Defences that operate as excuses and justifications – duress – necessity – self-defence.
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>There are two elements of assessment:</p> <p>a) A seen examination held in class mid-way through this part of the module.ie. in semester 1. The examination paper will be distributed to students one week before the in-class assessment. This assessment will count for 30% of the overall mark of</p>

	<p>the module.</p> <p>Students are not to be permitted to refer to any additional material whilst attempting the assessment.</p> <p>b) A seen examination paper distributed in week 12 of this element of the module (i.e. the last week before the Christmas vacation). Students attempt this examination paper under examination conditions during the end of semester examination period in the following January. This element counts for 70% of the module mark.</p> <p>Students are not to be permitted to refer to any additional materials whilst attempting the assessment.</p> <p>Both assessments cover substantive criminal law.</p>
<p><i>Underpinning philosophy and the strategy for assessment</i></p>	<p>The underpinning philosophy behind this module is to inspire the students about their chosen course and for them to see the place and value of their important role in the criminal justice system. Through the seminar exercises, the students are formatively assessed. The summative assessments at the mid-point and at the end of the module tests the students' knowledge and understanding of English criminal law and their ability to apply that knowledge.</p>
<p>Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i></p>	<p>Criminal Law - Catherine Elliott and Frances Quinn – Pearson Education Ltd – Latest Edition</p> <p>Criminal Law – Michael Jefferson – Pearson Education Ltd –</p> <p>Loveless, Janet – “Complete Criminal Law; Texts, Cases and Materials” (Latest edition)</p> <p>Wilson, William “Criminal Law: Doctrine and Theory (Latest edition) Pearson Higher Education</p>