

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: LAW AND COURT ROOM SKILLS
Status: Definitive
Code: **7106FSBMOL** (123662)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Pharmacy & Biomolecular Sciences
Teaching School/Faculty: Pharmacy & Biomolecular Sciences

Team	Leader
Suzanne McColl	Y
Julie Roberts	
Kayleigh Sheppard	
Nick Dawnay	
Matteo Borrini	

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 50
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 150

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: S1 and Non Std S2 (S2 for Jan)

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10
Off Site	20
Practical	10
Seminar	6
Workshop	4

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	Essay	40	
Presentation	Court room	Expert witness testimony and statement	60	

Aims

To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of British law including the role of the expert witness

To enable students to write thorough and coherent expert witness statements and defend their opinions and findings in a court room setting

To discuss regulation, validation and potential bias within the forensic field.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Write thorough and coherent expert witness statements and defend their opinions and findings in a court room setting
- 2 Undertake a critical appraisal of law relevant to their subject specialism
- 3 Discourse in depth, showing a thorough understanding, on changing regulations and areas of current importance in the forensic field

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	2	3
Court room presentation	1	3

Outline Syllabus

A range of relevant topics will be included around the whole crime scene to court route including the role of the forensic personnel and the criminal justice system in Britain. Some discussion relating to differences and similarities with other jurisdictions will be included. Aspects to particularly note will include: Crime scene processing, maintaining the chain of custody and continuity of evidence Photography (basic and advanced) and the use of technology both within the crime scene and during analysis.

Cognitive bias - the importance of avoiding this within the crime scene, analysis and interpretation of results.

The role and regulation of the expert witness including pre court and court room

The role of the forensic regulator in Britain

Validation of techniques and ethical considerations

Essay and statement writing

Learning Activities

Lectures, practical sessions including mock court proceedings, workshops and seminars (including debates).

Notes

This module will provide all forensic masters students with a thorough understanding of relevant laws and organisations pertinent to their potential role as an expert witness. The focus will be British law but there will be scope to specialise in specific country law if appropriate for individual students.