

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Forensic and Medicolegal Death
Status: Definitive
Code: **7111PS** (124505)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Justice Studies
Teaching School/Faculty: Justice Studies

Team	Leader
Heather Panter	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 36
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 164

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Seminar	12

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	essay	Essay 2,500 words	60	
Presentation	pres	Presentation of 15 minutes duration, plus a 5 minute Q&A	40	

Aims

- 1. To introduce students to a core of foundational concepts of criminal investigations, understand, explain, analyse and evaluate causes, sustainment and consequences of a processing a death scene.*
- 2. To encourage students to reflect upon, explain, analyse and evaluate critical evidence beyond a basic first responder response to investigate homicides (i.e. infant, child, and adult).*

3. To critically analyse and evaluate the central issues surrounding death investigations.
4. To critically analyse and evaluate the investigative indications of foul play at death scenes.
5. To critically analyse and evaluate relevant forensic evidence that can be used in part with a death investigation.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Analyse and evaluate criminal evidence at homicide scenes and how evidence is used in homicide investigations
- 2 Analyse and evaluate the different methods of conducting a homicide investigation.
- 3 Analyse and evaluate the forensic indicators between a suicide, homicide, and accidental death
- 4 Analyse and evaluate the various forensic methods used in death investigations (i. e. toxicology, anthropology, pathology, odontology, etc.) and how these scientific methods aid in conducting a death investigation.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay	2	3	1
Presentation	4		

Outline Syllabus

Recognition, Protection, Documentation and Collection of Physical Evidence
Crime Scene Safety and Hazardous Forensics
Identification of human remains and forensic entomology
Homicide Investigations
Establishment of probable location of injury or illness
Post mortem changes after death
Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation
Biological Evidence on the Human Body
Anatomical Considerations: Recovering buried remains
Bite mark identification and forensic odontology
Sudden and Unexpected deaths from natural causes
Childhood deaths
Blunt Force Trauma/ Sharp Force Trauma
Gunshot injuries
Asphyxia versus Strangulation
Suicide Indicators
Bodies recovered in water: Suicide, homicide, or accident?
Drug Overdoses

Vehicular-related injuries/ deaths
Critical disasters and Terrorist Incidents
Fire and post-blast bomb homicide scene investigations

Learning Activities

The students are expected to engage in self-directed learning to develop their knowledge of the field and to prepare for interactive 2-hour lectures. Skills that will be developed include: critical thinking skills; note-taking; reading; small group discussions; general contribution to classes; use of Canvas; preparation of seminars; private study; conduct analysis and evaluation; writing a research essay; presenting key findings.

Notes

This module takes cognisance of the National Occupational Standards – AA1, AB, AE1 & CB1.

This module takes cognisance of the National Occupational Standards- CB1 / CJ101 / GC10 & BE2.