Module specification

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Module Code	SCI650
Module Title	Forensic Archaeology
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	FAST
HECoS Code	101219
Cost Code	GAFS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science	Option
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Placement Year	Option

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	16 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	8 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	**24** hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

Students will develop an understanding of the principles and techniques of forensic archaeology, including the recovery and analysis of human remains and other buried or concealed evidence. The module will cover the legal and ethical considerations involved in the excavation and analysis of buried remains, including the importance of proper documentation and preservation of evidence. With a focus on hands-on experience in fieldwork and laboratory techniques, including the use of excavation equipment, mapping, and documentation, students will gain an appreciation of the various types of evidence that can be recovered through forensic archaeology. How forensic archaeology can be used in criminal investigations, including the reconstruction of crime scenes and the identification of suspects will be addressed as well as the role of forensic archaeology in addressing human rights issues, such as war crimes, genocide, and other mass atrocities.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Design a strategy using archaeological principles and techniques for the search and recovery of buried or concealed evidence.
2	Appraise forensic archaeological methods and techniques used in the investigation of criminal or civil cases
3	Execute a search for buried or concealed evidence, and recover this in line with legal and ethical frameworks in forensic archaeology
4	Select and proficiently utilise a range of specialist equipment required for archaeological fieldwork

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: Presentation (~10 mins)
Students will present a 15-minute proposal of a forensic search and recovery strategy for a given major incident case scenario.

Assessment 2: Practical (~3 hours)
Students will undertake a practical search and recovery exercise on a simulated major incident case.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1&2	Presentation	50%
2	3&4	Practical	50%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

In line with the University's Active Learning Framework, teaching on this module will include:

Case studies: analysing real-world forensic archaeology cases, helping students understand the practical application of the techniques and methods they are learning.

Role-playing and simulated scenarios: helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by placing them in realistic, simulated forensic scenarios.

Collaborative learning: encouraging students to work in groups or pairs to analyse data and interpret findings, providing an opportunity for peer-to-peer teaching and learning.

Online resources: using online resources such as videos, podcasts, articles, or discussion boards to supplement classroom instruction and provide additional resources for students to explore.

Self-directed learning: providing students with the opportunity to research and develop their own topics or projects, with guidance and support from the instructor.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Role of forensic archaeologists in criminal investigations
- Ethics and professional practice in forensic archaeology
- Field methods and techniques
- Forensic mapping and surveying
- Forensic geophysics
- Searching for buried and concealed evidence
- Stratigraphy
- Excavation and recovery techniques
- Mass fatalities, genocide, and war crime.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads
Gold, C.L. & Moran, K.S. (2019), Forensic Archaeology: Multidisciplinary perspectives, Germany: Springer International Publishing.

Other indicative reading
Barone, P.M. & Groen, W.J.M. (2018), *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Forensic Archaeology: Topics Discussed During the European Meetings on Forensic Archaeology (EMFA),* Germany: Springer International Publishing.

Errickson, D., Squires, K. & Márquez-Grant, N. (2020), Ethical Approaches to Human Remains: A Global Challenge in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology, Germany: Springer International Publishing.

Schultz, J.J., Williams, L.J., Wheeler, S.M. & Dupras, T.L. (2021), *Forensic Recovery of Human Remains: Archaeological Approaches*, 2nd Edition, Oxfordshire: Taylor & Francis Group.

Steding, L. (2021), *Forensic Archaeology in the Search for Missing Persons*, Australia: In Focus Press.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication