SCIE11018 *Introduction to Forensic Science*
Term 3 - 2020

All details in this unit profile for SCIE11018 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit has been designed as an introductory level unit with broad appeal to a wide range of students. For example, students studying health, social work, nursing, psychology, education or business as well as those studying science-based subjects might consider this elective option offered by online delivery (distance education). Its aim is to enable you to develop an appreciation of contemporary forensic analysis, with a particular emphasis on understanding DNA methods and applications. Topics studied includes: the scope of forensic science; how crime scenes are processed and how trace evidence from such scenes is collected and analysed; the different types and significance of trace evidence, including hairs, fibres and fingerprints; forensic investigations of fires and explosions; forensic examination of body fluids and human remains; forensic DNA methods. The unit involves online group discussions, peer evaluation and self-assessment within some of the assessment tasks. You will also undertake literature research on aspects of DNA profiling as part of the written assessment.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 1*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *8*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.
Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework).

Offerings For Term 3 - 2020

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Group Discussion**
Weighting: 20%
2. **Online Quiz(zes)**
Weighting: 30%
3. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the University's Grades and Results Policy for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.
You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student Evaluations.

Feedback

Most students were satisfied with the way the unit was run

Recommendation

No changes need to be made.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the scope and application of contemporary forensic science.
2. Discuss, using specific case examples, the underlying principles governing forensic crime analysis.
3. Explain the practical roles of the various sections of the forensic laboratory in the scientific investigation of different types of crime.
4. Evaluate forensic journal articles, case information and other evidence in relation to contemporary forensic science.
5. Engage in self-assessment, peer-assessment and group discussion with respect to forensic science topics.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level   ○ Introductory Level   ○ Intermediate Level   ● Graduate Level   ○ Professional Level   ○ Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Group Discussion - 20%					●
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%	●		●		
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	●	●		●	

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication	●	●	●	●	●
2 - Problem Solving		●			
3 - Critical Thinking				●	

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work					•
6 - Information Technology Competence	•	•	•	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence					
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation					
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Group Discussion - 20%	•		•	•	•	•		•		
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%		•	•			•				
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	•		•	•				•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing styles below:

- Harvard (author-date)
- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Dana Stanley Unit Coordinator
d.stanley@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Nov 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Introduction • Assessing the crime scene		

Week 2 - 16 Nov 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Forensic microscopy • Isotopes in hair, fibres and paints		Hot Topic discussion forum 1 opens Monday 16/11/20 at 12:00 AM and closes on the 23/11/20 at 12:00 AM.

Week 3 - 23 Nov 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Fingerprints		Hot Topic discussion forum 1 closes Monday 23/11/20 at 12:00 AM. Hot Topic discussion forum 2 opens on the 23/11/20 at 12:00 AM and closes on the 30/11/20 at 12:00 AM.

Week 4 - 30 Nov 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• DNA		Hot Topic discussion forum 2 closes Monday 30/11/20 at 12:00 AM. Hot Topic discussion forum 3 opens on the 30/11/20 at 12:00 AM and closes on the 07/12/20 at 12:00 AM.

Vacation Week - 07 Dec 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Hot Topic discussion forum 3 closes on the 07/12/20 at 12:00 AM.

Week 5 - 14 Dec 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Serology and blood stain analysis		

Week 6 - 21 Dec 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Fire and explosions		

Vacation Week - 28 Dec 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 7 - 04 Jan 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Firearms and other impressions		

Week 8 - 11 Jan 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Radiocarbon in teeth		

Week 9 - 18 Jan 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Drugs and toxicology		

Week 10 - 25 Jan 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Forensic anthropology, body farm research		**Contributions to forensic science** Due: Week 10 Friday (29 Jan 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 11 - 01 Feb 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Forensic psychology		

Week 12 - 08 Feb 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
• Forensic pathology		**Online quiz** Due: Week 12 Friday (12 Feb 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Exam Week - 15 Feb 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 'Hot topic' discussion forums

Assessment Type
Group Discussion

Task Description
This assessment is based on your posts to the Hot Topic group discussion forums in Moodle. There will be three (3) graded Hot Topic forums. To get the best possible mark, you will need to contribute to all three forums. It is also recommended that you aim for five posts per forum. Each of the forums will be open for 7 days only, therefore, you will need to post to the forum within this time period. The opening and closing dates/times are listed in the Schedule section of this Unit Profile. The first forum will be open in week 2, the second in week 3 and the third in week 4. Your overall marks for the three forums will be released by the return date specified in this section. More help with this assessment will be available on the unit Moodle site.
In order to make this more effective for you, the class will be divided into groups of around twenty-five or so students, so that you don't have to read posts from everyone taking the unit this year (this change has been made in response to student feedback from earlier years, because working through all of the discussion board posts was too time-consuming).
There is no minimum mark for this assessment therefore you do not have to complete it. However, if you do not contribute to the forums you will NOT qualify for a supplementary assessment (SA). Thus, if you do not pass the minimum grade for this unit via the other two assessments, you will not be able to take a supplementary assessment for discussion forums to pass the minimum grade.

Assessment Due Date

The 3 forums will run for one week each during weeks 2-4.

Return Date to Students

We will aim to provide the feedback within 3 weeks after the last forum post.

Weighting
20%

Assessment Criteria
Note: each assessment criterion will be marked on a scale from 0 to 5, giving a total of 20 marks across all four criteria:

1. **Quality of contributions -** in terms of their relevance to the discussion.
2. **Scholarly contributions** - based on evidence of use of wider reading and academic 'detective work', to address

the discussion topic.
3. **Breadth of contributions** - based on the number of relevant postings within the forum.
4. **Interactivity of contributions** - engages in discussion with other student posts.

There is more help available on Moodle for this assessment.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Students must contribute to the 'Hot topic' discussion forums.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Engage in self-assessment, peer-assessment and group discussion with respect to forensic science topics.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

2 Online quiz

Assessment Type
Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description
This assessment task will take the form of a 45 minute online 'open book' multiple choice quiz in Moodle. There are 30 questions drawn from a pool, based on material derived from the weekly learning materials. The quiz questions cover all of the topics from week 1 to week 11 inclusive.

It is essential that you have studied all the material on these topics by the date of the assessment so that you are well-prepared to make the most of the quiz. While the 'open book' nature of the quiz will enable you to make one or two checks for those questions where you are unsure of the exact answer, you will not have enough time to read material 'from scratch'. Please ensure that you are well-prepared to take the assessment.

A trial version of the online quiz will be available in Moodle before attempt the assessment itself.

Note - make sure that you 'submit' your answers before the time is up, or you will be 'timed out' after a maximum of 45 minutes, and all of your answers will be lost.

The quiz will open two weeks prior to the due date of the assessment. You will have one attempt only. This assessment task must be completed by the due date specified. In the absence of an approved extension, there will be no opportunity to complete the quiz at a later date.

If you have any technical problems during the quiz itself, you need to contact the unit coordinator, Dana Stanley as soon as possible on the day of the assessment. Contact details will be available on the unit Moodle site.

Number of Quizzes
1

Frequency of Quizzes

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Friday (12 Feb 2021) 11:45 pm AEST
You must start this quiz at least one hour before the quiz closes.

Return Date to Students

Student will receive their mark for the quiz as feedback immediately on completion of the quiz (details of correct answers to each question are not released, as some questions may be re-used in subsequent assessments).

Weighting
30%

Minimum mark or grade
To pass this unit and demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes, you need to score at least 50 % for the quiz.

Assessment Criteria
Each answer will be given 1 mark if correct and 0 marks if incorrect (30 marks in total).
There will be no negative marking, so you should attempt all 30 questions.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the scope and application of contemporary forensic science.
- Explain the practical roles of the various sections of the forensic laboratory in the scientific investigation of different types of crime.

Graduate Attributes

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Competence

3 Contributions to forensic science

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
Over the past century, advancements in forensic science have changed the way that many crime scenes have been processed. Greater scientific understanding, improved methodologies and new technologies have all contributed to the body of evidence used in criminal prosecutions.
Please write an essay discussing forensic psychology and its contribution to forensic science. Your discussion should include details of the historic development and improvement of methods and technologies, the use or misuse of evidence in criminal prosecutions, and the application and limitations (pros and cons) of this area of evidence. Your discussion should also be supported with appropriate case examples. Please note that each of the forensic methodologies is independent lecture and that lecture order in Moodle is mostly randomly selected. Thus, after watching week 1 introduction lecture, you can go to week 11 and watch forensic psychology in order to start working on your assignment as soon as possible.
Your assessment should be approximately 1500 words (absolute maximum of 1800 words without references), and should be written using correct grammar and English expression. It should be well-presented using a plain text such as Times New Roman or Arial size 12 font. Please use 'double space' line spacing and do not use background images or themes. Include a cover page with your name, student number and a title. **There is more help available on Moodle for this assessment**.
All essays will automatically be submitted to the similarity detection website Turnitin, in accordance with CQUniversity policy. Please ensure all work is your own and has not previously been submitted elsewhere.

Assessment Due Date
Week 10 Friday (29 Jan 2021) 11:45 pm AEST
Students must submit their assessment via the unit Moodle site.

Return Date to Students

Your marked assessment will be returned via Moodle.

Weighting
50%

Minimum mark or grade
50 %

Assessment Criteria
Marks will be awarded for:

- Original style and arguments (10 marks).
- Argument clearly and logically explained in the student's own words without great slabs of quotation (10 marks).
- Very well written with no grammatical errors (30 marks).
- Contribution of the topic to forensic science (30 marks)
- Pros and cons of the topic clearly argued in terms of its applications and limitations to forensic science (30 marks).
- Discussion appropriately supported by case examples (20 marks).
- Appropriate citations used and referencing consistent in format throughout (10 marks).
- Neat, double spaced, using size 12 font. Adheres to the word limit (10 marks).
- Structure follows a story, no jumping back and front to the same topic. Tables and figures, if used are well presented, titled and referred to in the text (10 marks).

Referencing Style

- Harvard (author-date)
- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the scope and application of contemporary forensic science.
- Discuss, using specific case examples, the underlying principles governing forensic crime analysis.
- Evaluate forensic journal articles, case information and other evidence in relation to contemporary forensic science.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the **Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure**. This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?
A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?
A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?
For academic advice and guidance, the Academic Learning Centre (ALC) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

Be Honest
If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

Seek Help
If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

Produce Original Work
Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem