1. **Title of the module**

LAWS5730 (LW573): Law of Evidence for Forensic Scientists

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS Credits)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn Term

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

LAWS5620 Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists is normally a prerequisite but at the convenors discretion may be taken as a co-requisite

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

This module is only available for students on one of the Forensic Science programmes

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Identify and critically analyse sources relating to evidence, from a range of disciplines.
   2. Utilise and apply inferential logic and then apply analysis to factual situations
   3. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the rules of evidence
   4. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of implications for evidence, and procedure, in light of the European Convention on Human Rights
   5. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the relationship between forensic science and the rules of evidence
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Apply knowledge to complex situations
   2. Recognise potential alternative conclusions for particular situations, and provide supporting reasons for them
   3. Use the English language and legal terminology with care and accuracy
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The role of evidence in a courtroom is technical but its rules reflect core principles of the due process of law. These are becoming more significant with the implementation of the Human Rights Act 1998 and it is important for forensic scientists, who may act as expert witnesses, to have an understanding of these rules and their operation in the trial process. This module considers the position of forensic evidence within the trial process, rules governing the recognition of such evidence and the perception of its value in the trial. In addition matters such as the function of the judge and jury, burden and standard of proof, and hearsay are considered from a central focus of how they relate to forensic evidence.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

* Huxley, Blackstone’s Statutes on Evidence (14th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)
* Keane and McKeown, The Modern Law of Evidence (11th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Background:

* Allen, C. Practical Guide to Evidence. (5th ed. New York: Routledge-Cavendish, 2016)
* Emson, R. Evidence (5th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)
* Munday, R. Evidence. (9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Study Hours: 150

Total Contact Hours: 30

Private Study Hours: 120

1. **Assessment methods**

13.1 Main assessment methods

The module will be assessed by 20% coursework and 80% exam as follows:

Multiple choice test, online (20%)

Written examination, 2 hours (80%)

\* Students must achieve a mark of 40% in the exam in order to pass this module.

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: (100% exam)

Students must achieve a mark of 40% in the exam in order to pass this module on reassessment.

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | x |  | x | x | x | x |  |  |
| Seminars | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Private Study | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MCT (20%) | x |  | x | x |  | x |  |  |
| Exam (80%) | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

**a) Accessible resources and curriculum**

1. Preference will be given to electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards and support the use of assistive technologies.
2. Module outlines will be made accessible at least four weeks before the module starts.
3. Prioritised reading lists will be made available sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.
4. Lecture/seminar slides/outlines will be made available in electronic format in advance to allow all students to prepare (particularly students with notetaking difficulties).
5. In accordance with the KLS school-level statement on Lecture Capture, lectures will be recorded to assist notetaking unless one or more of the lectures contains sensitive material. The module convenor will notify students in advance of any lectures that will not be recorded.

**b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b (1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

This module requires students to contrast the fundamental features of the English adversarial criminal trial with the European inquisitorial style of criminal trial. In addition, the European Convention on Human Rights impacts greatly on the English rules of evidence, especially in relation to the burden of proof and the rules concerning hearsay evidence. Consequently, students will study aspects of the Convention and its interaction with the English law of evidence, including case law emanating from the European Court of Human Rights.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| 25/01/2018 | Major | September 2018 | 8-15, 17 | No |
| 02/12/19 | Minor | September 2020 | 13 | No |