Forensic Taphonomy: the degradation of human remains and death-scene materials

Module Code: ARC6013-B
Academic Year: 2016-17
Credit Rating: 20
School: School of Archaeological Sciences
Subject Area: Archaeology
FHEQ Level: FHEQ Level 6
Module Coordinator: Dr Andrew Wilson

Additional Tutors:

Pre-requisites:
Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other DO NOT</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations DO</td>
<td>2</td>
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Availability Periods

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Location/Period</th>
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<tr>
<td>BDA</td>
<td>University of Bradford / Semester 2 (Feb - May)</td>
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Module Aims
This module provides a detailed understanding of the principles and practice relating to forensic taphonomy. This includes the degradation of human bodies and associated materials under a range of terrestrial and underwater environments.
Outline Syllabus


Indicative Reading List
(Tcont. under Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy)

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

1. Synthesize evidence of forensic taphonomy, soil biology, chemistry to interpret the degradation of human cadavers and a range of materials in the depositional environment.

   (Indicative Reading (3) cont ..)

2. 1. Evaluate the problems associated with forensic taphonomy and investigations of degradation mechanisms in both field and laboratory experiments  
   2. Interpret theories of decay processes associated with the human body under a range of different depositional environments and explain the factors that will promote or retard soft tissue decomposition  
   3. Synthesize the differences between transit graves, secondary burials, and 'no body cases' where a body has partially decayed and been subsequently moved.

3. 1. Evaluate written source material  
   2. Set up a series of casework related experiments to aid the interpretation of results.  
   3. Record observations and experimentation, including experimental design, in a logical, comprehensive and contemporaneous manner in keeping with established and accepted codes of good practice.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
Lectures cover the key issues. Workshops and demonstrations explore specific topics of forensic taphonomy, especially a critical approach to experimental design. Practicals and fieldwork introduce both field taphonomic experiments and electrochemical corrosion. A formal class-based feedback and revision session will help students to prepare for the exam. Students will use Directed Study for reading of literature detailed in the module documentation and for researching and preparing for coursework.

(Indicative Reading (2) cont. from Outline Syllabus)
(continued under Learning Outcome 1)