

Module code: MOD009596	Version: 1 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Language and the Law

2a. Module Leader
Vahid Parvaresh

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module introduces you to what is known as 'forensic linguistics', i.e. the application of language skills and relevant methods to forensic contexts. The module seeks to enable you to explore the intersection between 'language' and topics/issues such as law, crime and trial processes. The module also sheds light on the role of language in such emerging phenomena as cybercrime. The focus of the module is on all forms of language use including spoken, written and computer-mediated communication.

The module, consists of lectures and seminars in which you will work in small groups, provide feedback to your peers and reflect on your own performance with a view to sharpening your forensic analytical abilities. The topic of the week is introduced in the lecture and explored in seminar discussions.

The key employability skill developed on this module is forensic data analysis opportunities, especially the ways language analysis skills could be used in resolving real-life forensic scenarios.

6b. Outline Content

The module explores a wide range of topic which may include:

- Language of the law
- Language and the criminal justice system
- Authorship analysis
- The role of language in cybercrime
- Language and the court
- Police interviews
- Crime narratives
- Vulnerable witnesses

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the key concepts in the field, especially the intersection between language and law.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Specify the core analytical tools relevant to forensic contexts.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply your undertaking of key terminology to the analysis or interpretation of forensic texts.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critique and evaluate the use and importance of language in legal settings.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	12 x 1-hour lecture weekly
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	12 x 1-hour seminar weekly
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Preparatory readings, further research, preparation of presentations and essays
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio of coursework involving analysis and critiquing of forensic cases, equivalent to 3000 words.					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]