

Module Title:	Law and Ethics in Forensics
Academic year:	2009 2010
Credit Value:	5.0
Pre- requisites:	None
Assessment:	Continuous assessments: 30% Final examination: 70%
Aims	This module aims to outline the legal and ethical aspects of criminal evidence with reference to case studies. The role of the Forensic Science Laboratory and interrelationship with An Garda Siochána and other state actors will also be described and discussed in the context of case studies.
Module Content	<p>Criminal Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene Examination - Procedures - Receipt - Initial Testing - Interpretation - Report • Drugs analysis • Chemistry (Criminal Damage - Explosives - Firearms) • Biology (Murder - Sexual Assault - Assault - Burglary) • DNA Profiling – International standards ISO 17025, International Bodies – ENFSI, DNAWG, EDNAP. <p>Roles and Responsibilities in crime scene investigations</p> <p>Garda Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Scene Investigation • Fingerprint Detection and Identification • Firearms • Scene of Crime Mapping • Forensic Photography • Document Examination • Handwriting Identification <p>Legal and Ethical Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence) Act 1990 • Contamination of Samples • Retention of Databases • Bodily Integrity • Privacy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Trial• Expert Witness
Intended Learning Outcomes: (September 2007)	Upon completion of this module the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the role of the forensics laboratory• Describe the role of the Garda Síochána in crime scene investigations• Discuss the ethical issues involved in giving forensic evidence• Discuss forensics from a legal perspective