

MODULE DESCRIPTION FORM

Module Information			
Module Title	Legal regulation of the criminal expert		Module Delivery
Module Type	Basic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial <input type="checkbox"/> Practical <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar
Module Code	FOR12002		
ECTS Credits	3		
SWL (hr/sem)	75		
Module Level	1	Semester of Delivery	
Administering Department	Forensic Evidence	College	College of Sciences
Module Leader	Abbas Taher Jari Nasser	e-mail	abbas.taher@uowa.edu.iq
Module Leader's Acad. Title	Assistant Lect.	Module Leader's Qualification	MS. C.
Module Tutor	Abbas Taher Jari Nasser	e-mail	abbas.taher@uowa.edu.iq
Peer Reviewer Name	Abbas Taher Jari Nasser	e-mail	abbas.taher@uowa.edu.iq
Scientific Committee Approval Date	01/03/2026	Version Number	1.0

Relation with other Modules			
Prerequisite module	None		Semester
Co-requisites module	None		Semester


 أ. س. شيماء حسين نونيل
 ٢٠٢٦ - ٢٠٢٥




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Department Head Approval

Dean of the College Approval

Module Aims, Learning Outcomes and Indicative Contents

Module Aims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cognitive Aspect (Theoretical) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Judicial System: Defining the court hierarchy and the role of the forensic expert as a technical arm of the judiciary. • Comprehending Applicable Laws: Familiarity with the legal texts (Law of Evidence, Criminal Procedure Code) that govern the work of experts. • Classification of Experts: Distinguishing between the court-appointed forensic expert and the consultant expert, and the requirements for appointing each. 2. Procedural Aspect (Practical) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastering Report Writing: Training the student on the correct legal drafting of technical reports to ensure their admissibility as evidence in court. • Appointment and Objection Procedures: Understanding how expert commissioning decisions are issued, and cases of expert recusal or challenges to their reports. • Handling Evidence: Understanding the legal regulations for protecting the "Chain of Custody" from the moment of collection until submission to the court. 3. Ethical and Liability Aspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Ethics: Instilling values of integrity, honesty, and complete neutrality when dealing with forensic evidence, away from any external influences. • Scope of Authority: Defining what a forensic expert is legally permitted or prohibited from doing during a crime scene investigation. • Consequences of Professional Error: Understanding the types of liability (Civil liability for damages, Criminal liability for forgery or bribery, and Disciplinary administrative liability). 4. Interactive Aspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testifying in Court: Preparing the student psychologically and legally on how to testify and discuss their technical report before the judge and defense attorneys.
Module Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyzing Governing Laws: The ability to understand and interpret legal texts (Law of Evidence, Criminal Procedure Code) that regulate the work of forensic experts. 2. Drafting Robust Technical Reports: Formulating forensic expert reports in a precise legal and scientific manner that ensures their admissibility as conclusive evidence before the judiciary. 3. Managing the "Chain of Custody": Applying strict legal procedures to protect forensic evidence from the moment of collection at the crime scene until its presentation in court, ensuring its legal integrity. 4. Determining Legal Liabilities: Distinguishing between types of liability (criminal, civil, and administrative/disciplinary) that may be imposed on the

	<p>expert in cases of professional error or negligence.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Appearing Before the Judiciary: Acquiring the skill of providing technical testimony and discussing forensic reports before judges and defense attorneys with confidence and neutrality. 6. Applying Professional Ethics: Adhering to professional codes of conduct, integrity, and absolute impartiality when dealing with forensic evidence and criminal cases. 7. Understanding Commissioning Procedures: Comprehending the legal mechanisms for selecting and assigning experts to tasks by investigative and judicial authorities. 8. Recognizing the Scope of Authority: Knowing the legal boundaries permitted for the expert at the crime scene and how to interact with security and judicial authorities in accordance with the law.
<p style="text-align: center;">Indicative Contents</p>	<p>Unit 1: Conceptual and Legal Framework of Forensic Expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of Judicial Expertise: Distinguishing between the Expert, the Witness, and the Technical Consultant. • The Importance of Expertise in Criminal Evidence: The role of science in assisting the judiciary to reach the truth. • The Legal System for Experts: Studying local laws (Law of Evidence, Criminal Procedure Code, and the Law Regulating Experts). <p>Unit 2: Procedures for Appointing and Commissioning Forensic Experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing Authorities: The powers of the Investigative Judge and the Court in summoning an expert. • Requirements for Selecting an Expert: Scientific qualifications, registration in the Experts' Roll, and the legal oath. • Recusal or Withdrawal of an Expert: Legal cases that prevent an expert from performing their mission (kinship, personal interest). <p>Unit 3: Legal Rules for Handling Evidence (Chain of Custody)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legality of Forensic Evidence: Conditions for collecting evidence from the crime scene in accordance with the law. • Chain of Custody Protocol: Legal documentation of transferring evidence from the examination site to the laboratory and then to the court. • Nullification of Procedures: Legal consequences resulting from tampering with evidence or loss of documentation. <p>Unit 4: The Technical Report (The Expert before the Court)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of the Forensic Report: Mandatory data, introduction, technical examination, and conclusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Drafting: How to translate complex scientific findings into legal language understandable by the judge. • Discussing the Report: Principles of testifying before the court and how to respond to cross-examination by the prosecution and defense. <p>Unit 5: Legal Liability and Professional Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Liability: Penalties for perjury (false testimony), forgery in reports, and bribery. • Civil Liability: Compensation for damages resulting from negligence or gross professional error. • Disciplinary Liability: Administrative penalties (warning, dismissal from office, or striking the name from the Experts' Roll). • Code of Professional Ethics: Neutrality, integrity, and maintaining the confidentiality of investigations. <p>Unit 6: Practical Applications and Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of Real-life Cases: Analyzing cases where forensic evidence was excluded due to legal errors. • Mock Court: Training students on how to defend their technical reports in a simulated trial environment.
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Learning and Teaching Strategies	
Strategies	Adopting comparative legal methods with Iraqi legislation through practical applications, discussions, and brainstorming.

Student Workload (SWL)			
Structured SWL (h/sem)	48	Structured SWL (h/w)	3.2
Unstructured SWL (h/sem)	27	Unstructured SWL (h/w)	1.8
Total SWL (h/sem)	75		

Module Evaluation

		Time/Number	Weight (Marks)	Week Due	Relevant Learning Outcome
Formative assessment	Quizzes	2	10% (10)	5, 10	LO #1, 2, 10 and 11
	Assignments	2	10% (10)	2, 12	LO # 3, 4, 6 and 7
	Projects	1	10% (10)	Continuous	
	Report	1	10% (10)	13	LO # 5, 8 and 10
Summative assessment	Midterm Exam	1 hr	10% (10)	7	LO # 1-7
	Final Exam	3 hr	50% (50)	16	All
Total assessment			100% (100 Marks)		

Delivery Plan (Weekly Syllabus)

	Material Covered
Week 1	Definition of the expert
Week 2	Characteristics of forensic expertise
Week 3	Conditions of a forensic expert
Week 4	The relationship between the expert and testimony
Week 5	The legal nature of the work of a forensic expert
Week 6	The legal liability of a forensic expert
Week 7	The civil liability of the expert
Week 8	Disciplinary liability
Week 9	The relationship between expertise and investigation
Week 10	How to appoint an expert
Week 11	Legal protection of the expert
Week 12	The legal value of expertise
Week 13	Midterm examination
Week 14	Practical applications of the expert in the field of cognitive skills of the forensic expert
Week 15	Practical applications of the expert in the field of cognitive skills of the forensic expert
Week 16	Preparatory week before the final Exam

Learning and Teaching Resources

	Text	Available in the Library?
Required Texts	<p>The Forensic Expert: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities – Dr. Mamdouh Abdel Hamid (Covers characteristics, requirements, and liability).</p> <p>Judicial Expertise in Criminal Matters – Dr. Mohammed Ali Salem Al-Issawi (Focuses on legal and procedural aspects)</p> <p>Civil and Criminal Liability of the Judicial Expert – Dr. Ahmed El-Saeed El-Zaqrud (An excellent reference for legal liabilities)</p> <p>Explanation of the Criminal Procedure Code – (e.g., works by Dr. Saeed Hasaballah or Dr. Salim Harba) covering "The Relationship between Expertise and Investigation" and "Appointment Methods."</p>	
Recommended Texts		
Websites		

Grading Scheme

Group	Grade	التقدير	Marks (%)	Definition
Success Group (50 - 100)	A - Excellent	<i>Excellent</i>	90 - 100	Outstanding Performance
	B - Very Good	<i>Very Good</i>	80 - 89	Above average with some errors
	C - Good	<i>Good</i>	70 - 79	Sound work with notable errors
	D - Satisfactory	<i>Average</i>	60 - 69	Fair but with major shortcomings
	E - Sufficient	<i>Pass</i>	50 - 59	Work meets minimum criteria
Fail Group (0 – 49)	FX – Fail	<i>Fail (Under Review)</i>	(45-49)	More work required but credit awarded
	F – Fail	<i>Fail</i>	(0-44)	Considerable amount of work required

Note: Marks Decimal places above or below 0.5 will be rounded to the higher or lower full mark (for example a mark of 54.5 will be rounded to 55, whereas a mark of 54.4 will be rounded to 54. The University has a policy NOT to condone "near-pass fails" so the only adjustment to marks awarded by the original marker(s) will be the automatic rounding outlined above.