

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Science
Department of Biological Sciences
Course Syllabus: Forensic Pathobiology, BIOL 3375, (CRN # 27319),
Credit Hours: 3, Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari

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Office Hours: Virtual office hours by appointment - anytime via e-mail

Prerequisite(s): (BIOL 1305 AND BIOL 1306) AND (CHEM 2324 AND CHEM 2325)

This is a hybrid course (online and face-to-face)

Class Hours: Fridays: 10:30 am - 11:50 am.

Classroom: Quinn Hall 206

Required Materials:

Knight's Forensic Pathology, 3Ed, 3 by Pekka Saukko ISBN-10: 0340760443, ISBN-13: 978-0340760444

Important dates:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 17: | Classes begin |
| Mar. 13 - 19 | Spring Break (No Classes) |
| Mar. 30 | Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W) |
| Mar. 31 | Cesar Chavez Day Observance (No Classes) |
| Apr. 7 | Spring Study Day |
| May 4 | Spring Last Day of Classes |
| May 5 | Dead Day (No Class) |
| May 8 -12 | Finals Week |
| May 12 | Final Exam Due By midnight |

Important Course Dates

- **Feb. 6 – 12** - Exam 1 (16%)
- **Mar. 6 – 12** - Exam 2 (16%)
- **Apr. 10 – 16** - Exam 3 (16%)
- **May 8 – 12** - Final Exam (16%)
 - **8 Assignments** (24%)
 - **iClicker Questions** (12%)

The assignments will be posted on Monday Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, Mar. 27, Apr. 3, Apr. 17, and May 1, and you will have through the following Sunday at midnight to submit them. Each assignment's grade is worth 3% of the course grade.

iClicker Question will be given during in-person class sessions, Fridays, 10:30 -11:50 a.m.

Course Description

To provide the students with a broad-based understanding of forensic pathology including pathologic process, injury, or disease that results in or initiates the events that lead to death (mechanism of death), manner of death, examination of wound and injuries both at autopsy and occasionally in a clinical setting. The primary goal of the course is to provide a basic working knowledge for the interpretation of medical facts and the circumstances surrounding unexplained or violent deaths. In addition, the role of related forensic science disciplines will be presented, with emphasis on forensic pathology which plays an important role in crime investigation, because it provides important pieces of information.

Course Objectives:

Upon Completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the role of the forensic pathologist in the criminal justice system.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the common terminology, methods, and procedures connected with forensic pathology.
3. Describe the circumstances when an autopsy is appropriate.
4. Identify and evaluate relevant methods for determining time, cause, mechanism and manner of death.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the medicolegal death investigation system, clinicians and hospitals, and family members in forming an opinion of the cause and manner of death.
6. Describe, compare and assess various types and methods of injury for potential lethality.
7. Explain the various types of evidence typically available at a crime scene in a death investigation.

Course Requirements:

- A. Students will be required to complete each reading, participate in classroom polling and discussions, complete class activities and Blackboard assignments. Students are expected to come to the class prepared by completing assigned readings before the in-person class sessions to contribute to the discussions actively and answer iClicker questions.
- B. This is a 16-week Hybrid course. We meet in class one day weekly, and all coursework will be completed via Blackboard.
 - The course is not self-paced. There are due dates for coursework.
 - All the assignments and tests due dates are posted on Blackboard and on the Calendar in this Syllabus.
- C. Course work is divided into 16 Weeks which are arranged within 4 Modules.
 - Modules are located on the Blackboard course content page.
 - The folder of each week's course work will open at the beginning of that week on Monday. Week one will open on Tuesday, January 17.
- D. Blackboard
 - Blackboard is the LMS (learning management system) used for this course. All course work will be completed through Blackboard.

- You must have access to a strong Internet connection either at home, school, or a reliable wireless location. A strong Internet connection is especially important when taking exams.
- In some cases, your computer may already have some of these programs installed:
 1. Adobe Acrobat Reader -- to get the program, go to <http://www.adobe.com> and then click on the icon on the center of the screen that says, “Get Adobe Reader”. Follow the instructions to install this software.
 2. Apple QuickTime Player – go to <http://www.apple.com> and click on the “downloads” tab on the top of the page. Next, click on “QuickTime download” and follow the instructions to install this software.
 3. Microsoft Office – I recommend that you install this if you do not currently have it in your computer. As currently enrolled UTEP students, you can install Office 365 and its components for free. You can obtain more information by contacting UTEP Technical Support/Helpdesk.

Evaluation

Four exams will be given for this course. Three exams will be given during the semester. The final exam will be given during the finals week. There are eight assignments to be given during the semester. iClicker Question will be given during in-person class sessions, Fridays, 10:30 - 11:50 a.m,

Grading

Your grade in this course is based on a combination of exams, assignments, and iClicker questions. Grades are based on a straight percentage scale; there is no curve and no +/- grades are awarded. So, an A=100-90%, a B=89-80%, a C=79-70%, a D=69-60%, and F=<60%.

Grading Policy:

Exam 1: 16% of course grade

Exam 2: 16% of course grade

Exam 3: 16% of course grade

Final Exam: 16% of course grade

Eight Assignments; 24% (each assignment 3%)

iClicker Questions: 12% of course grade

Total: 100%

Testing Condition:

All exams will be given via the Internet using Blackboard. Exams can be True/False, matching, fill in the blank and multiple choice questions where you will have a list of answers to choose from a drop-down menu. Exams will be timed to permit you to have a total of 40 minutes for 25 questions. If you have to look up a lot of answers, you will not be able to finish the exam so it is important for you to know the material as well as you can before starting an exam. Exams will be available to take during the week of an exam from Monday morning of that week through the

following Sunday at 11:59 PM. Exams are to be taken alone without help from another person so that you can determine and be proud of your own accomplishments.

Due dates and test conditions;

- a. Exams and assignments must be completed before the due dates. The dates are posted on Blackboard and on the calendar in this syllabus. You may find the assignments and exams on Blackboard course content page under the corresponding week within a Module. Make sure to set up reminders in your phone in order to not forget to take the tests.
- b. Please note the following weekly standard deadlines:
 - Exams are due Sundays by 11:59 p.m. except for the final exam, which will be due Friday, May 12, before 11:59 p.m.
 - Assignments are due Sundays by 11:59 p.m.
- c. Exams are single-attempt and timed as you have 1-2 minutes to answer each question. If you study, you will finish the tests with plenty of time to spare; however, if you do not study and want to be looking at the book for answers, you will run out of time. There will be **no retakes** and you can only make up **ONE** exam.
- d. When you take an exam, you will see the complete test. If you decide later that you want to change an answer, you can go back and do so. However, once you start the test, you must complete it. You cannot close the test and then attempt to go back. Once you finish a test, you will be able to see your grade.

Policies and Expectations:

Late Work: No late work will be accepted during the semester. If you have a question about this policy please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your concern.

Drop Policy: If at any time a student decides to drop the course, it is the student's responsibility to do so. **The deadline for dropping this course is March 30, 2023. If you drop before the UTEP deadline, you will receive a "W".**

Class participation: Attendance in this course is critical to your success. Attending class and participating online help you understand the course material. Also, I recommend that you check the course page on Blackboard daily. Messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so check your UTEP email several times a week. I may post weekly announcements, which will come to your email address.

Academic Integrity Policy: Information on UTEP's Policies regarding academic integrity can be found at <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

Disability Statement: If a student has or suspect he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5184 or at cass@utep.edu or go to room 106 in the Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

FORS 3375 Forensic Pathobiology - Weekly Schedule
Course is 16 weeks long, from January 17 to May 12, 2023

| Timeframe | Tasks to Complete | Assignment Due Dates | Grade Value |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Week 1 1/17 – 1/22 (Module 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • The Pathophysiology of death | | |
| Week 2 1/23 - 1/29 (Module 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypostasis • Rigor Mortis • Decomposition | Assignment# 1 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 3 1/30 - 2/5 (Module 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pathology of wounds (Bruises) • The pathology of wounds (Abrasions and Lacerations) | Assignment#2 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 4 2/6 – 2/12 (Module 1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 1-3 materials | Exam 1 (due Sunday) | 16% |
| Week 5 2/13 – 2/19 (Module 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pathology of wounds (Incised wounds) | | |
| Week 6 2/20 – 2/26 (Module 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head and spinal injuries I | Assignment#3 (due Sunay) | 3% |
| Week 7 2/27 – 3/5 (Module 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head and spinal injuries II (membrane bleeding) | Assignment#4 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 8 3/6 – 3/12 (Module 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 5-7 materials | Exam 2 (due Sunday) | 16% |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 3/13 – 3/19 | Spring Break | No Classes | |
| Week 9 3/20 – 3/26 (Module 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-inflicted injuries | | |
| Week 10 3/27 – 4/2 (Module 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunshot and explosion death | Assignment#5 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 11 4/3 – 4/9 (Module 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns and scalds I • Burns and scalds II | Assignment#6 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 12 4/10 – 4/16 (Module 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 9-11 materials | Exam 3 (due Sunday) | 16% |
| Week 13 4/17 – 4/23 (Module 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical fatalities | Assignment#7 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 14 4/24 – 4/30 (Module 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffocation and Asphyxia • Fatal pressure on the neck | | |
| Week 15 5/1 – 5/7 (Module 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The immersion deaths | Assignment#8 (due Sunday) | 3% |
| Week 16 5/8 – 5/12 (Module 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 13-15 materials | Final Exam (Due Friday, May 12 before 11:59 p.m.) | 16% |
| | | iClicker Questions in the classroom During the Semester | 12% |