

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Science
Department of Biological Sciences
Course Syllabus: Forensic Pathobiology, BIOL 3375, (CRN # 18945),
Credit Hours: 3, Fall 2021

100% Online (asynchronous)

Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari

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

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

Required Materials:

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

Important dates:

Aug. 23	Classes begin
Sep. 6	Labor Day (No Classes)
Oct. 29	Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)
Nov. 25 – 26	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)

Important Course Dates

- **Sep. 13 – 18** - Exam 1 (17%)
- **Oct. 11 – 16** - Exam 2 (17%)
- **Nov. 8 – 13** - Exam 3 (17%)
- **Dec. 6-10** - Final Exam (17%)
 - **8 Assignments** (32%)

The assignments will be posted on Monday Aug. 23, Sep. 6, 27, Oct. 4, 25, Nov. 1, 15, and 29, and you will have through the following Saturday at midnight to submit them. Each assignment's grade is worth 4% of the course grade.

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.

Student's Responsibility:

Students will be expected to keep up with course assignments as indicated on the course syllabus. If you miss a scheduled exam or a deadline for an assignment, only a serious personal emergency will be considered as an excuse and you must apply in writing (e-mail O.K.) to the instructor to explain why an exam or assignment was missed. If any exam or assignment deadline is missed without an instructor approved excuse, one/half credit for the missed exam or assignment can be obtained by completing the exam or assignment within one week following the deadline. After one week has passed beyond the deadline for an exam or assignment, no credit will be able to be earned for that exam or assignment. The only exception to this rule is Final Exam which must be completed by the end of day on **Friday, December 10.**

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 Saturday 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.

Instructor's Responsibility:

To provide students with a challenging environment for learning which also encourages questioning and respects individual opinions

Course Requirements:

- A. This is a 16-week, fully online course and all course work will be completed via Blackboard.
- An online course requires a serious commitment on your part.
 - 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.
- B. Course work is divided into 16 Weeks which are arranged within 4 Modules.
- Units 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 Monday, August 23.
- C. 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.
 - Regarding Your Blackboard Course:
This course has been chosen as part of a pilot to test and explore the new Blackboard Ultra Course View experience. Please feel free to explore your new course and become familiar with it. You will find a Quick Start Guide (attached to Getting Started Document on Blackboard) to help you learn to navigate this new learning environment as well. If you have any questions or run into any technical issues as you are navigating please be sure to contact Technology Support by emailing blackboard@utep.edu . Be sure to include in your communication that you are operating in Ultra Course View (UCV) and any important information about your experiences.
 - 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.

Grading

Your grade in this course is based on a combination of exams, and assignments. 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: 17% of final grade

Exam 2: 17% of final grade

Exam 3: 17% of final grade

Final Exam: 17% of final grade

Eight Assignments; 32% (each assignment 4%)

Total: 100%

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 Saturdays by 11:59 p.m.
 - Assignments are due Saturdays 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.

Work Load: This is a fully online course. I expect that you will commit at least 6-8 hours per week on the course readings and assignments. As you prepare for the semester, please schedule your time accordingly so that you can be successful in this course.

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 October 29, 2021. If you drop before the UTEP deadline, you will receive a "W".

Class participation: Since our contact for this course is primarily online, I strongly recommend that you check the course page on Blackboard daily. Email messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so make sure you check your UTEP email several times a week. I will be sending at least two announcements weekly, and these will come to your email address.

Effective Electronic Communication:

It is important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important that we all keep this in mind as we communicate. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance.

- For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting.

The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. (Translation: you may certainly disagree with others, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.)

- More information on Netiquette, the etiquette of Internet communication, can be found at www.albion.com/netiquette

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 August 23 to December 10, 2021

Timeframe	Tasks to Complete	Assignment Due Dates	Grade Value
Week 1 8/23 – 8/29 (Module 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • The Pathophysiology of death 	Assignment# 1 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 2 8/30 - 9/5 (Module 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypostasis • Rigor Mortis • Decomposition 		
Week 3 9/6 - 9/12 (Module 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pathology of wounds (Bruises) • The pathology of wounds (Abrasions and Lacerations) 	Assignment#2 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 4 9/13 – 9/19 (Module 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 1-3 materials 	Exam 1 (due Saturday)	17%
Week 5 9/20 – 9/26 (Module 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pathology of wounds (Incised wounds) 		
Week 6 9/27 – 10/3 (Module 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head and spinal injuries I 	Assignment#3 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 7 10/4 – 10/10 (Module 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head and spinal injuries II (membrane bleeding) 	Assignment#4 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 8 10/11 – 10/17 (Module 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 5-7 materials 	Exam 2 (due Saturday)	17%
Week 9 10/18 – 10/24 (Module 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-inflicted injuries 		
Week 10 10/25 – 10/31 (Module 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunshot and explosion death 	Assignment#5 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 11 11/1 – 11/7 (Module 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns and scalds I • Burns and scalds II 	Assignment#6 (due Saturday)	4%

Week 12 11/8 – 11/14 (Module 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 9-11 materials 	Exam 3 (due Saturday)	17%
Week 13 11/15 – 11/21 (Module 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical fatalities 	Assignment#7 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 14 11/22 – 11/28 (Module 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffocation and Asphyxia • Fatal pressure on the neck 		
Week 15 11/29 – 12/5 (Module 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The immersion deaths 	Assignment#8 (due Saturday)	4%
Week 16 12/6 – 12/10 (Module 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Week 13-15 materials 	Final Exam (Due Friday, Dec 10)	17%