

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**College of Science**  
**Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Course Syllabus: Forensic Pathobiology, BIOL 3375, (CRN # 18462),**  
**Credit Hours: 3, Fall 2017**

**Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari**

**Office:** BIOL # 403

**Phone:** 915-747-8059

**Email:** [rjafari@utep.edu](mailto:rjafari@utep.edu)

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

**Classroom:** PSCI 314

**Class Hours:** MW 10:30 – 11:50 AM; **Office Hours:** MW 2:45 – 3:45 PM

**Required Materials:**

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

**Important dates:**

<b>Aug. 28</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>Sep. 4</b>	<b>Labor Day (No Classes)</b>
<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)</b>
<b>Nov. 23 – 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Last day of classes</b>
<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>Final exam: 10:00 am – 12:45 pm</b>

**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.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance in this course is critical to your success. Not only attending lecture aid in your understanding of course material, attendance is mandatory.

### **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 of this semester on Friday, Dec. 15.

### **Grading**

Your grade in this course is based on a combination of exams, and participation in class. 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: 20% of final grade

Exam 2: 20% of final grade

Exam 3: 20% of final grade

Final Exam: 20% of final grade

Class Participations (Classroom polling): 10% of final grade

Class Activities and Assignments: 10% of final grade

Total: 100%

### **Classroom Polling**

I'm excited to let you know that I will be using a cloud-based student response software by iClicker in class this semester. This will help me understand what you know, give everyone a chance to participate in class, and allow you to review the material after class. I will be using this software to keep track of attendance; please refer to the attendance policy of this syllabus. In-class participation through iClicker will account for 5 % of your final grade.

You will need to create an iClicker Reef Student account to participate in class using your laptop, smart phone, or tablet connected to the university's Wi-Fi (UTEPSecure) or to your mobile data plan.

### **Creating Your iClicker REEF Student Account through Blackboard**

Sign in to Blackboard and click my course [BIOL 3375 18462.201810: Forensic Pathobiology](#). Search for the iClicker REEF icon, this should be on the Home Page. Click this link to launch a special instance of REEF, then log in or create a new REEF account if you don't already have

one. You should **use your university email address** ([username@miners.utep.edu](mailto:username@miners.utep.edu)) when creating your account. If you need to change your email address or password, edit your REEF account profile. Signing into REEF through the link in Blackboard will automatically add you to my course.

**Note:** You will not need to purchase a subscription to use iClicker REEF this semester because it is provided to you for free.

### **Creating Your iClicker Reef Student Account** (if not using Blackboard)

Students who do not have an existing REEF account, need to go to [iclicker.com/students](http://iclicker.com/students) or download the iClicker Reef Student app from the App Store or Google Play to sign up for a Reef account. iPad users need to change the search to iPhone App. You should **use your university email address** (@miners.utep.edu) when creating your account. If you need to change your email address, or password, edit your account profile. Do ***not*** create and use more than one Reef account as you will only receive credit from a single account.

**Note:** You will not need to purchase a subscription to use iClicker REEF this semester because it is provided to you for free.

### **Cheating**

I consider submitting votes for a fellow student to be cheating and a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught voting for another student or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all Reef points and may face additional disciplinary action.

### **MAKE- UP EXAM POLICY: There is no make-up test!**

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

**Civility Statement:** Cell phones are either to be turned off or turned to vibrate during lecture; talking during lecture is not permitted. Please be respectful to all students' right to learn without disruption.

**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](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or go to room 106 in the Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any DDS accommodation letters and instructions.

**Military:** If one serves in the military and has the potential of being called up, that fact should be made known to the instructor.

**The following schedule is tentative, and the dates of lectures and exams may be changed.**

1<sup>st</sup> week:

Introduction

The pathophysiology of death

2<sup>nd</sup> week:

Labor Day (No Classes)

The pathophysiology of death (Hypostasis)

3<sup>rd</sup> week

The pathophysiology of death (Rigor Mortis)

The pathophysiology of death (Decomposition)

4<sup>th</sup> week:

The pathology of wounds (Bruises)

The pathology of wounds (Abrasions and Lacerations)

5<sup>th</sup> week:

The pathology of wounds (Abrasions and Lacerations)

**Exam 1**

6<sup>th</sup> week:

The pathology of wounds (Incised wounds)

Head and spinal injuries

7<sup>th</sup> week:

Head and spinal injuries

Head and spinal injuries

8<sup>th</sup> week:

Self-inflicted injuries

**Exam2**

9<sup>th</sup> week:

Gunshot and explosion death

Gunshot and explosion death

10<sup>th</sup> week:

Gunshot and explosion death

Burns and scalds

11<sup>th</sup> week:

Burns and scalds

Electrical fatalities

12<sup>th</sup> week:  
Suffocation and Asphyxia  
**Third Exam**

13<sup>th</sup> week:  
Suffocation and Asphyxia  
Fatal pressure on the neck

14<sup>th</sup> week:  
The immersion deaths  
The immersion deaths

15<sup>th</sup> week:  
The Pathology of sudden death  
Carbon monoxide poisoning

16<sup>th</sup> week:  
**Final Examination (Dec. 15, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm)**

**Rules for tests:**

- 1. Cell phones must be turn off!**
- 2. No listening device may be worn**