

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Science
Department of Biological Sciences
Course Syllabus: Forensic Pathobiology, BIOL 3375, (CRN # 27843),
Credit Hours: 3, Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari

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Prerequisite courses: BIOL1305-1107, BIOL 1306 – 1108, CHEM 2324, CHEM 2325

Classroom: Quinn Hall 103

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

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 - 17	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. 14	Spring Study Day (No Classes)
May 4	Last day of classes
May 12	Final exam: 10:00 am – 12:45 pm

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. If missing four class hours, you may be dropped from this class.

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, May 12 .

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

Attendance: 10% of final grade

Class Activities: 10% of final grade

Total: 100%

Some pop quizzes may be given during the class hours for extra credits.

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 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.

1st week:

Introduction

2nd week:

The pathophysiology of death

The pathophysiology of death (Hypostasis)

3rd week

The pathophysiology of death (Rigor Mortis)

The pathophysiology of death (Decomposition)

4th week:

The pathology of wounds (bruises)

The pathology of wounds (abrasions & lacerations)

5th week:

The pathology of wounds (abrasions & lacerations)

Exam 1

6th week:

The pathology of wounds (incised wounds)

Head and spinal injuries

7th week:

Head and spinal injuries

Head and spinal injuries

8th week

Self-inflicted injuries

Exam2

9th week:

Spring Break (No Classes)

Spring Break (No Classes)

10th week:

Gunshot and explosion death

Gunshot and explosion death

11th week:
Gunshot and explosion death
Burns and scalds

12th week:
Burns and scalds
Electrical fatalities

13th week:
Suffocation and Asphyxia
Third Exam

14th week:
Suffocation and Asphyxia
Fatal pressure on the neck

15th week:
Fatal pressure on the neck
The immersion deaths

16th week:
The immersion deaths
Carbon monoxide poisoning

17th week:
Final Examination (Friday, May 12, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm)

Rules for tests:

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