

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**College of Science**  
**Course Syllabus: Forensic Biology, FORS 3371, (CRN # 14678),**  
**Credit Hours: 3, Fall 2025**

**Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari**

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

**Classroom:** Quinn Hall, Room 202

**Class Hours:** MW: 1:30 - 02:50 p.m.

**Office Hours:** Virtual(by appointment), anytime via e-mail

**Required Materials (Textbook):** Forensic Biology by Richard Li, second Edition, 9781439889701, CRC Press, 2015

<https://librarymohsin.files.wordpress.com/2018/07/forensic-biology-2nd-ed.pdf>

**Important dates:**

<b>Aug. 25</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>Sep. 1</b>	<b>Labor Day (University closed)</b>
<b>Sep. 22 - 27</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>Oct. 20 - 25</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Oct. 31</b>	<b>Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)</b>
<b>Nov. 27 - 28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday (University closed)</b>
<b>Dec. 1 - 6</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>

**Course Objectives:**

The goal of this course is to provide the student with a foundation in the theories, techniques, and vocabulary unique to the fields of forensic serology and forensic DNA. The course will cover the handling of samples from evidence collection, documentation, preservation, and examination. This includes the different types of bodily fluids collected and the corresponding testing for that fluid. Extraction techniques, quantification techniques, and associated instrumentation will be discussed.

**Course Requirements**

- A. This is a 16-week, face-to-face Blackboard-enhanced course. We meet in class 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 test due dates are posted on Blackboard and on the Calendar in this Syllabus.
- B. Coursework is divided into 16 Weeks, which are arranged within 3 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 Monday, August 25.

### C. Blackboard

- Blackboard is the LMS (learning management system) used for this course. All coursework 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 in 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 at 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.

## Grading

Your grade in this course is based on a combination of exams, class activities (practical), Blackboard assignments, 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%.

### Evaluation and Grading Policy:

There will be three exams, 20 -25 short quizzes, and four assignments given for this course.

- Exam 1: 25% of course grade
- Exam 2: 25% of course grade
- Exam 3: 25% of course grade
- Average of 20 – 25 quizzes: 10% of course grade
- Four Assignments: 8% of course grade (each one 2% of course grade)
- iClicker Questions: 5% of course grade
- Attendance: 2% of course grade

Total: 100%

### Due dates and test conditions;

a. Exams, Quizzes, 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, quizzes, and exams on the Blackboard course content page under the corresponding week within a Unit. Make sure to set up reminders on your phone in order not to forget to take the tests.

b. Please note the following weekly standard deadlines:

- i Quizzes are due on Fridays by 11:59 p.m.
- ii Exams are due on Saturdays by 11:59 p.m.
- iii. Assignments are due on Sundays by 11:59 p.m.

c. All exams and quizzes are single-attempt and timed. If you are well-prepared, you should be able to complete them with ample time remaining. However, if you are unprepared, you may run out of time. Please note: No retakes will be allowed. You are allowed to make up only for ONE exam or quiz during the course, and only under approved circumstances.

d. When you take a quiz or 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.

Workload: I expect that you will commit at least 6-8 hours per week to 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 31, 2025. If you drop before the UTEP deadline, you will receive a "W".

Class participation and attendance: Attendance will be taken through the Blackboard Attendance tool, and it accounts for 2% of the course grade. Class participation through the class discussion and iClicker questions enhances active participation and active learning, and accounts for 5% of your course grade.

**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 suspects he/she has a disability and need 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.

**FORS 3371 Forensic BIOLOGY - Weekly Schedule**  
 The course is 16 weeks long, from August 25 to December 12, 2025

Timeframe	Tasks to Complete	Assignment
<b>Week 1</b> 8/25 - 8/31 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• Chapter 3: Forensic biology Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#3 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b> 9/1 – 9/7 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4</li> <li>• Chapter 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#4 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#5 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> 9/8 - 9/14 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6</li> <li>• Chapter 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#6Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#7Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Assignment#1 (<b>due Sunday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> 9/15 – 9/21 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8</li> <li>• Chapter 9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#8 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#9 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b> 9/22 – 9/28 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Ch#3,4,5,6,7, 8, &amp;9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 1 (Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 8, &amp; 9)</b> (<b>due Saturday, Sep. 27</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> 9/29 – 10/5 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 10</li> <li>• Chapter 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#10 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#11 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> 10/6 – 10/12 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#12 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Assignment # 2 (<b>due Sunday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> 10/13 – 10/19 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 14</li> <li>• Chapter 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#14 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#15 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> 10/20 – 10/26 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Ch#10, 11, 12, 14, &amp; 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 2 (Chapter 10, 11, 12, 14, 15)</b> (<b>due Saturday, Oct. 25</b>)</li> </ul>

<b>Week 10</b> 10/27– 11/2 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 16</li> <li>• Chapter 17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#16 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#17 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Assignment # 3 (<b>due Sunday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b> 11/3 – 11/9 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 18</li> <li>• Chapter 19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#18 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#19 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b> 11/10 – 11/16 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 20</li> <li>• Chapter 21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#20 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#21 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b> 11/17 – 11/23 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 22</li> <li>• Chapter 23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#22 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#23 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Assignment # 4 (<b>due Sunday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14</b> 11/24 – 11/30 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 24</li> <li>• Chapter 25</li> <li>• Chapter 26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch#24 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#25 Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> <li>• Ch#26Quiz (<b>due Friday</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 15</b> 12/1 – 12/7 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Ch#16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, &amp; 26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 3 (Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, &amp; 26) (due Saturday, Dec. 6)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 16</b> 12/8 – 12/12 (Finals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional Assignment (Extra Credit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Optional Hardy-Weinberg Assignment ( 2% Extra Credit ) (due Thursday, Dec. 11)</b></li> </ul>