

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Science
Course Syllabus: Forensic Biology, FORS 3371, (CRN # 25685),
Credit Hours: 3, Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari

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Office Hours: Saturdays: 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. and virtual office hours - anytime via e-mail

This is a hybrid class (2/3 online and 1/3 face-to-face)

Class Hours: Saturdays: 9:00 am - 9:50 am.

Classroom: CCSB 1.0202

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

Important dates:

Jan 21:	Classes begin
Mar. 16 - 22	Spring Break (No Classes)
Mar. 27	Cesar Chavez Day Observance/ Spring Study Day (No Classes)
Apr. 3	Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)
May 7	Last day of classes
May 16	Final exam: 9:00 am

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 as well as quantification techniques and associated instrumentation will be discussed.

Attendance Policy:

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

Evaluation

Three exams will be given for this course. Two exams will be given during the semester. The final exam will be given during the finals week of this semester on Saturday, May 16.

Grading

Your grade in this course is based on a combination of exams, and class activities (practical), Blackboard assignment, 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: 25% of final grade
- Exam 2: 25% of final grade
- Final Exam: 25% of final grade
- Average of Class Participation (classroom polling quizzes): 15%
- Five Class Activities (Practical) and Blackboard Assignments: 10% of final grade (each one 2% of final grade)

Total: 100%

Course Requirements: Students will be required to complete each reading, participate in classroom polling and discussions, complete class activities and Blackboard assignments, and be ready to discuss current events in Forensic Science as they occur.

Format: The course is interactive format where faculty will provide a structure and format for class sessions and students are expected to come to the class prepared, make an active, significant contribution to the discussions. Students have the responsibility for demonstrating their knowledge of assigned readings which are expected to be completed PRIOR to the class session assigned.

Blackboard: The electronic platform for this course will be Blackboard. All course materials, including this syllabus, Power Point presentations, videos, and additional articles will be added onto the Blackboard course page. Assignments and instructions for uploading material will also be organized into 3 Modules to make it easier for students to find material pertaining to each week in the semester. For example, material for weeks 1-5, weeks 6 -10, and weeks 11-15 will each be included in separate Modules. Please note that any Blackboard assignments given are to be uploaded onto Blackboard by the specified deadline. No late submissions will be accepted. Students are responsible for being aware of assignments and will upload them onto Blackboard before the designated due date. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard daily for course announcements and updates through the my.utep.edu portal. I will be sending at least two announcements weekly, and these will come to your email address as well

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 15 % of your final grade.

If you have already had an iClicker Reef Student account, you do not need to create an account. One iClicker account will be enough. If you do not have an iClicker account, 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 [Forensic Biology \(FORS-3371-001 CRN 25685\)](#). 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) 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 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.

Creating Your iClicker REEF Student Account through Blackboard is recommended

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.

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 hybrid (2/3) 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 April 3, 2020. 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.

Software Requirements

This course is 2/3 online and interacts continually with UTEP's Blackboard system. You will need the following software to effectively work in this course. 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. Adobe Flash Player – Go to <http://www.adobe.com> again and click on icon labeled "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow the instructions to install it.
3. 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.
4. 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 going to <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74266> or ask for help installing it from the UTEP IT Help Desk located on the 3rd floor in the library (915) 74

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.

FORS 3371 Forensic BIOLOGY - Weekly Schedule
 Course is 15 weeks long, from January 21 to May 10, 2020
 Week 16 is the finals week that final exam takes place

Timeframe	Tasks to Complete online	Assignment
Week 1 1/21 - 1/26 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • Chapter 3: Forensic biology Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class syllabus review and and iClicker set-up • In class iClicker Quiz on the syllabus and Ch. 3
Week 2 1/27 - 2/2 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 • Chapter 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 4 & 5 • Blackboard or Class Assignment
Week 3 2/3 - 2/9 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch.6
Week 4 2/10 – 2/16 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 • Chapter 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch.7 & 8 • Blackboard or Class Assignment
Week 5 2/17 – 2/23 (Module 1)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 9
Week 6 2/24 – 3/1 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Exam 1 (Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 8, & 9) on Saturday, Feb. 29
Week 7 3/2 – 3/8 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 10 & 11 • Blackboard or Class Assignment

Week 8 3/9 – 3/15 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 12
Week 9 3/23 – 3/29 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 14
Week 10 3/30 – 4/5 (Module 2)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 15 • Blackboard or Class Assignment
Week 11 4/6 – 4/12 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16 • Chapter 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Exam 2 (Chapter 10, 11, 12, 14, 15) on Saturday, April 11.
Week 12 4/13 – 4/19 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 • Chapter 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch. 16, 17, 18, 19
Week 13 4/20 – 4/26 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 20 • Chapter 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch.20, 21
Week 14 4/27 – 5/3 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22 • Chapter 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch.20, 21 • Blackboard or Class Assignment
Week 15 5/4 – 5/10 (Module 3)	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24 • Chapter 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class iClicker Quiz on Ch.24, 25

Week 16 5/11 – 5/16 (Finals)	Reiview Chapters: 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Class Final Exam (Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25) on Saturday, May 16
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Rules for tests:

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