

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**College of Science**  
**Course Syllabus: Forensic Biology, FORS 3371, (CRN # 25092),**  
**Credit Hours: 3, Spring 2021**

**100% Online (asynchronous)**

**Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari**

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

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

**Important dates:**

<b>Jan. 19:</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>Ice Breaker &amp; Scavenger Hunt Due</b>
<b>Feb. 15 - 20</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>Mar. 15 - 19</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Mar. 22 - 27</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Apr. 1</b>	<b>Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)</b>
<b>May 3 - 8</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>
<b>May 10 - 14</b>	<b>Optional Assignment (2% Extra Credit)</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 as well as quantification techniques and associated instrumentation will be discussed.

**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 3 Units.
  - 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 Tuesday, January, 19.

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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%.

### Evaluation and Grading Policy:

There will be three exams, 20 -25 short quizzes, four assignments, Scavenger Hunt Questions, and Ice breaker 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: 13% of course grade
- Four Assignments: 8% of course grade (each one 2% of course grade)
- Scavenger Hunt: 2% of course grade
- Ice Breaker: 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 Blackboard course content page under the corresponding week within a Unit. 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:
  - i Quizzes are due Fridays by 11:59 p.m.
  - ii Exams are due Saturdays by 11:59 p.m.
  - iii. Assignments are due Sundays by 11:59 p.m.
- c. Exams and quizzes 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 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.

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 April 1, 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.

**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](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.

**Equity Statement:**

All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. This includes inappropriate comments about the above mentioned on line, in person, or in confidence. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your instructor.

**FORS 3371 Forensic BIOLOGY - Weekly Schedule**  
 Course is 16 weeks long, from January 19 to May 14, 2021

Timeframe	Tasks to Complete	Assignment
<b>Week 1</b> 1/19 - 1/24 (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>• Ice Breaker <b>(due Friday)</b></li> <li>• Scavenger Hunt Questions <b>(due Friday)</b></li> <li>• Ch#3 Quiz <b>(due Friday)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b> 1/25 – 1/31 (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> 2/1 - 2/7 (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> 2/8 – 2/14 (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> 2/15 – 2/21 (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, Feb. 20)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> 2/22 – 2/28 (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> 3/1 – 3/7 (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> 3/8 – 3/14 (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>3/15 – 3/19</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> 3/22 – 3/28 (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, Mar. 27</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> 3/29 – 4/4 (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> 4/5 – 4/11 (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> 4/12 – 4/18 (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> 4/19 – 4/25 (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> 4/26 – 5/2 (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> 5/3 – 5/9 (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)</b> (<b>due Saturday, May 8</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 16</b> 5/11 – 5/16 (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 )</b> (<b>due Friday, May 14</b>)</li> </ul>