

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Science
Course Syllabus: Forensic Science I, FORS 3370, (CRN # 14652),
Credit Hours: 3, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Roshanak Jafari

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Prerequisite courses: Math 1411, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 1306-1008, CHEM 1305-1105, CHEM 1306-1106, PHYS 2420, PHYS 2421

Classroom: PSYC 306

Class Hours: MWF 8:30 am - 9:20 AM; **Office Hours:** MW 2:45 – 3:45 PM

Required Materials (Textbook):

Criminalistics – An introduction to Forensic Science by Richard Saferstein, 12th edition, Prentice Hall, Pearson

Important dates:

Aug. 28	Classes begin
Sep. 4	Labor Day (No Classes)
Nov. 3	Course drop deadline (Last day to drop with an automatic W)
Nov. 23 – 24	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)
Dec. 7	Last day of classes
Dec. 11	Final exam: 10:00 am – 12:45 pm

Course Description

This course is an introductory course over various areas of forensic science. Students will participate in discussions and hands-on assignments to gain a real world understanding of what forensic science entails.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define and distinguish multiple disciplines of forensic science
2. Understand types of evidence and how they can affect the criminal justice system
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental elements and techniques utilized in forensic science.
4. Apply the scientific method to the analysis of various types of physical evidence
5. Identify the capabilities and limitations of crime laboratories
6. Learn the responsibilities of a forensic scientist

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

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 Monday, Dec. 11.

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: 25% of final grade

Exam 2: 25% of final grade

Final Exam: 25% of final grade

Class Participation (Classroom polling), Activities (Practical), and Blackboard Assignments:
25% 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 [FORS 3370 14652.201810: Forensic Science I](#). 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.

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 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.

DATE	DAY	SUBJECT	Assignment
08/28/2017	M	Introduction and Syllabus	Ch. 1
08/30/2017	W	Forensic Science /Crime Laboratories	Ch. 1
09/01/2017	F	Crime Scene	Ch. 2 Blackboard Assignment #1
09/04/2017	M	Labor Day (No Classe)	
09/06/2017	W	Crime Scene	Ch. 2
09/08/2017	F	Crime scene Processing	Sketching Practical
09/11/2017	M	Physical Evidence	Ch. 3
09/13/2017	W	Physical Evidence	Ch. 3
09/15/2017	F	Crime Scene Reconstruction	Ch. 4
09/18/2017	M	Blood Stain Pattern Analysis	Ch. 4
09/20/2017	W	Blood Stain Pattern Analysis	Ch. 4
09/22/2017	F	Crime Scene Reconstruction	BPA Practical

09/25/2017	M	Impression Evidence: Fingerprints	Ch. 6
09/27/2017	W	Fingerprint Comparisons	Ch. 6
09/29/2017	F	FP Practical	Fingerprint Practical
10/02/2017	M	EXAM #1	Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6
10/04/2017	W	Microscopy	Ch.8
10/06/2017	F	Firearms, Tool Marks, and Impressions	Ch. 9
10/09/2017	M	Firearms, Tool Marks, and Impressions	Blackboard Assignment #2
10/11/2017	W	Matter, light, Glass Examination	Ch. 10
10/13/2017	F	Glass Analysis Practical	Glass Practical
10/16/2017	M	Hairs and Fibers	Ch. 11
10/18/2017	W	Metals, Paints, and Soil	Ch. 14
10/20/2017	F	Drugs	Ch. 12 Blackboard Assignment #3
10/23/2017	M	Drugs	Ch. 12
10/25/2017	W	Drugs	Ch. 12
10/27/2017	F	Forensic Toxicology	Ch. 13
10/30/2017	M	Forensic Serology	Ch. 15
11/01/2017	W	Forensic Serology	Ch. 15
11/03/2017	F	Review	Course Drop/ Withdrawal Deadline
11/06/2017	M	EXAM# 2	Ch. 8 - 14
11/08/2017	W	DNA	Ch. 16
11/10/2017	F	DNA	Ch. 16
11/13/2017	M	DNA	Ch. 16 Blackboard Assignment # 4
11/15/2017	W	Ethics in Forensic Science	Ethics Discussion
11/17/2017	F	Forensics Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation	Ch. 17
11/20/2017	M	Document Examination	Ch. 18 Document Practical
11/22/2017	W	QA/QC	
11/24/2016	F	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)	
11/27/2017	M	Computer Forensics	Ch. 19 Bad Forensics Case Study
11/29/2017	W	Forensic Anthropology	Case Study Presentation
12/01/2017	F	Forensic Anthropology	Case Study Presentation
12/04/2017	M	Role of a Forensic Scientist/Courtroom	Case Study Presentation
12/06/2017	W	Forensic Science Review	
12/08/2017	F	DEAD DAY- No Class	
12/11/2017	M	FINAL EXAM (10:00am- 12:45pm)	

Rules for tests:

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