

Forensic Biology Course Syllabus

Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	BIOL 3318.001
<i>Course Title</i>	Forensic Biology
<i>Term</i>	Spring 2014
<i>Days & Times</i>	Fri 2:00 – 4:45 pm. Jan 17, 2013 – May 9, 2013
<i>Location</i>	JSOM 2.804

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Uyen Henson
<i>Email Address</i>	uyen.henson@utdallas.edu

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This course covers different disciplines in forensic science including crime scene investigation, fingerprints, firearms, trace evidence and drugs. Emphasis is placed on the theory and practice techniques of biological principles applied to forensic science, including sample recovery and handling, analytical techniques, DNA profile comparison, quality control and quality assurance. Population genetics employed during the statistical evaluation of data is covered. The course is structured to allow individuals with and without biological training to participate.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Become familiar with the fundamentals of various disciplines in forensic science, with an emphasis on forensic biology and DNA.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science (10th Edition) by Richard Saferstein

Assignments & Academic Calendar

TENTATIVE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Date	Lesson	Ch	Homework/Exam
01/17	Intro to Forensic Science	1	
01/24	Physical evidence and Glass and Soil	3, 4	
01/31	Organic Analysis and Inorganic Analysis	5, 6	Quiz over Ch. 1 & 3 due
02/07	Drugs and Forensic Toxicology	8, 9	Quiz over Ch. 5 & 6 due
02/14	Forensic Aspects of Fire investigation and Forensic Investigations of Explosions	14, 15	Quiz over Ch. 8 & 9 due
02/21	Fingerprint processing and comparison and Firearms, Toolmarks, and Other Impressions	16, 17	Quiz over Ch. 14 & 15 due
02/28	Trace evidence - Hairs, Fibers and Paint and Mid-term review	13	Quiz over Ch. 16 & 17 due
03/07	Mid-term exam		

03/14	Bloodstain Pattern analysis	12	
03/21	Crime scene and Evidence Processing and Crime scene reconstruction	2, 12	
03/28	Intro to Forensic Serology	10	Quiz over Ch. 2 & 12 due
04/04	Intro to Forensic Serology – Blood and Intro to Forensic Serology – Semen	10	Quiz over Ch. 10 due
04/11	Intro/History of DNA	11	
04/18	DNA analysis and DNA comparison and statistics	11	
04/25	Innocence Project guest speaker and Final review		Quiz over Ch. 11 due
05/02	Final Exam		

Grading Policy

Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

Lecture Exams (2) 50% and Quizzes (8) 50%

Grading scale:

A+	100-97	A	96-94	A-	93-90
B+	89-87	B	86-84	B-	83-80
C+	79-77	C	76-74	C-	73-70
D+	69-67	D	66-64	D-	63-60
F	59 and below				

Final grade will be rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 89.5 = 90; 89.49 = 89. No points or fraction of a point (regardless how small) will be awarded to increase to the next letter grade (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Course Policies

Make-up exams

If there are circumstances that warrant a make-up exam, the instructor will determine the criteria for such an exam at the appropriate time. Legitimate reasons to make-up missed exams are as follows: death of an immediate family member and bona fide medical emergencies. These must be presented in writing.

Class Attendance

Although attendance will not be counted towards the final grade, participation is anticipated.

Extra-credit

Extra credit will be awarded for observation of court cases which the students will be notified of the week prior to the trial. Attendance extra-credit may also be awarded at the discretion of the Professor.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.