

Forensic Biology Course Syllabus

Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	BIOL 3318-001
<i>Course Title</i>	Forensic Biology
<i>Term</i>	Fall 2013
<i>Days & Times</i>	MW 5:30 – 7:00 pm August 26, 2013 – December 11, 2013
<i>Location</i>	FO 3.616

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Uyen Henson
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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
08/26	Intro to Forensic Science	1	
08/28	Physical evidence	3	
09/02	<i>Labor Day – no class</i>		
09/04	Glass and Soil	4	Quiz over Ch. 1 & 3
09/09	Organic Analysis & Inorganic Analysis	5, 6	
09/11	Trace evidence - Hairs, Fibers and Paint	13	
09/16	Drugs	8	Ch.4-6 homework due
09/18	Drug expert guest speaker		
09/23	Forensic Toxicology	9	Quiz over Ch. 8 & 9

09/25	Forensic Aspects of Fire investigation & Forensic Investigations of Explosions	14, 15	
09/30	Fingerprint processing and comparison	16	Ch. 14, 15 homework due
10/02	Fingerprint expert guest speaker		
10/07	Firearms, Toolmarks, and Other Impressions	17	
10/09	Firearms guest speaker		Quiz over Ch. 16 & 17
10/14	First 8-week session review		
10/16	Mid-term exam		
10/21	Document Examination, Computer Forensics	18, 19	
10/23	Bloodstain Pattern analysis	12	Ch.18-19 homework due
10/28	Bloodstain Pattern analysis		
10/30	Crime scene and Evidence Processing	2	
11/04	Crime scene reconstruction	12	
11/06	Intro to Forensic Serology	10	Ch. 2 and 12 homework due
11/11	Intro to Forensic Serology – Blood		
11/13	Presumptive testing for blood		
11/18	Intro to Forensic Serology – Semen		
11/20	Presumptive testing for semen		Quiz over Ch. 10
11/25-11/29	<i>No class – Fall break</i>		
12/02	Intro/History of DNA	11	
12/04	DNA comparison and statistics		Quiz over Ch. 11
12/09	The Future of Forensics	20	
12/11	Innocence Project		
12/16	Final Exam		

Grading Policy

Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

Lecture Exams (2) 50%

Homework/Assignments (4) 20%

Quizzes (5) 30%

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).

Exams: Two exams will be given during the semester, the mid-term exam and the final exam. Graded exams will not be reviewed in class. Exams will be kept on file in the instructor's office and will be available for review by appointment. The student is responsible for scheduling time to review. All issues regarding exam questions and grades must be resolved within a week. After this week, grades will be considered final.

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

Make-up exams are usually not given - if there are circumstances that warrant a make-up 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— no exceptions.

Class Attendance

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

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