Forensic Science Internship BIMS 4395-001
Department of Life Sciences
Fall 2015

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIMS 4395-001
Class meeting time: Class 5:30-6:20 Monday
Class location: Bay Hall 202
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: John T. Hornsby
Office location: Forensics Division-Corpus Christi Police Department
Office hours: By Appointment Only
Telephone: 361-886-2636
e-mail: JohnH@cctexas.com
Appointments: Call or e-mail for appointment

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
This course is designed to bridge the gap between academic instruction and forensic industry by providing real world experience in forensic investigations. Students attend lectures on campus and five hours/week at a crime lab. Students will accompany crime scene investigators to actual crime scenes and participate in hands-on forensic exercises involving mock and real investigations.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
BIOL 1407 and (CHEM 1312 or CHEM 1412) and (BIMS 3320 or BIMS 3325)
Corequisites
None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
None

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science (10th Edition) is recommended but not required.

Supplies
Scientific Calculator
E. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the roll of the various units of a Crime Laboratory.
2. Demonstrate an understanding and participate in crime scene investigations.
3. Understand and demonstrate the basic operations of firearms and examination of firearms related evidence.
4. Understand and demonstrate fingerprint evidence collection, examination and comparison.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the operation of a crime laboratory and the legal and ethical requirements of laboratory personnel.
6. Understand and demonstrate the ability to document, collect and analyze all types of biological evidence.

F. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

This class utilizes a combination of lecture, laboratory activities and real world assignments.

G. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homework and class assignments</th>
<th>4 assignments will be given during the semester for 20 points each. Assignments will be hands on analysis of fingerprints, firearms and blood spatter/DNA, as well as a photography assignment.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship Participation and Journal</td>
<td>Points will be earned by participating in intern hours and lab assignments at the Police Department. <strong>THERE IS NO MAKE-UP FOR MISSED INTERNSHIP HOURS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Journal</td>
<td>Points will be given for participation in class discussion, group project involvement and maintaining a journal during the course of the semester.</td>
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Careers in Forensics | Five page essay describing the career outlook for forensic scientists, including forecasted job demand, job requirements, starting and top salaries and criteria for employment. | 10

Examination | Written Final Examination | 20

TOTAL | | 100

H. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

**Tentative Schedule**

31 Aug.  Introduction, Orientation to Police Department, Criminal History and Fingerprint checks, NCIC/TCIC Criminal Justice Practitioner training.

7 Sept.  Labor Day Holiday (no class)

14 Sept.  Crime Laboratory Organization/Legal Considerations

21 Sept.  Crime Scene and Physical Evidence (Lab x 8)

28 Sept.  Fingerprint classification (Lab) (Practical)

5 Oct.  Latent prints (Lab) (Practical)

12 Oct.  Photography (Lab) (Practical)

19 Oct.  Firearms (Lab) (Range)

26 Oct.  Blood Stain Pattern Analysis (Lab) (Practical)

2 Nov.  DNA Analysis

9 Nov.  NAS Report

16 Nov.  Laboratory Accreditation (NAS Report Evaluation Due)

23 Nov.  Careers in Forensic Science

30 Nov.  Ethical Considerations in Forensics (Careers in Forensic Science Essay Due) (Journal Due)
7 Dec. Final Examination

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section E.

I. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Students will be expected to attend every class session and lab assignment. Every attempt will be made to accommodate student schedules with regard to lab assignments at the Crime Laboratory.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Due to the nature of this course, late work and make up exams are not permitted. However, the instructor will work with each student in scheduling all due dates.

Extra Credit
There will be no extra credit for this class.

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones and electronic devices will be turned off or on silent during all instructions. Texting will not be permitted during class.

Laptop Use
Laptops use is not permitted in class or in lab exercises

Food in Class
Food is not permitted in any laboratory exercise.

Missed Exam
In the event that you must miss an examination, you must make arrangements with me to take the examination before the examination date. Emergencies will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Participation
This is an internship class and as such, participation is a major portion of the grade. Students will be required to attend and actively participate in all course activities.
J. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior.
  See Full University Policy at [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity)

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course by Friday, November 6, 2015. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must be submitted. After November 6, 2015 a student will not be allowed to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  Disability Services (DS) is the hub for coordinating services and accommodations to ensure accessibility and utilization of all programs for all Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students with disabilities. Our services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of enrolled students with documented permanent or temporary disabilities. DS provides intake and consultation services to students seeking to register with our office. DS reviews an individual’s documentation of disability and assesses eligibility for services and the determination of reasonable
accommodations. For more information visit the Disability Services Office at 116 Corpus Christi Hall or go to http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **Classroom/Professional behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Much of this class will be conducted in a professional environment away from the university. Accordingly, all students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Dress will be casual but conservative, close toe shoes and long pants are required for all activities conducted at the Crime Laboratory.

  Additionally, this class will be participating in exercises where firearms, explosives, human blood, dangerous chemicals and other hazardous material and situations are present. **ANY ACT THAT IS DEEMED BY THE INSTRUCTOR TO BE UNSAFE WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN YOUR DISMISSAL FROM THE CLASS.**

K. **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Background Investigation**

Due to the nature of this course and the location of much of the activities, a complete background investigation is required for all students prior to being allowed access to the Crime Laboratory of the Police Department. The background investigation will be conducted by the Police Department at no cost to the student. If a student fails to pass the background investigation, they will not be permitted to participate in the class. Background results will be communicated to the student prior to the final drop date. If a student commits an act during the semester that results in arrest or indictment, they are identified as a suspect in a criminal investigation or they violate the safety or security protocols of the police department, the security clearance of the student will be immediately revoked and participation in the remainder of the intern portion of the class will not be allowed. The student will be given an opportunity to withdraw or if they have accumulated sufficient points to pass the class they may continue with the lecture only portion of the class.
GENERAL DISCLAIMER
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.