SURVEY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
BIMS 3320.001/BIMS 3320.101
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Life Sciences
Fall 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: BIMS 3320.001
Class meeting time: T/TH 530-720
Class location: Class and Lab ECMS 210
Course Website: https://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Edelmiro Garcia
Office hours: Will be held before and after class-email or phone for an appointment
Telephone: 361-813-3761
e-mail: Edelmiro.Garcia@tamucc.edu
Appointments: Appointments may be arranged by phone or email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the methods and materials used to gather and process evidence at potential crime scenes. Students are introduced to the legal rules of evidence and their practical ramifications during scientific criminal investigations. In laboratory, students use commonly available processing items and tools to investigate a simulated crime scene. Safety training given during a laboratory meeting early in the semester is required for continued participation in this course.

This is an introductory course in the basic and advanced scientific methods used in criminal investigations. The focus of this course will be placed on the methodologies, cognitive processes, deductive reasoning and the scientific processes of hypothesis development, analysis of data, and the use of scientific materials in gathering and processing evidence found at crime scenes. These same principles can be employed in any scientific process requiring skills in observation, diagnosis, treatment and processing of biomedical or medicolegal samples. Scientific investigations will be explored through lecture, hands-on application of skills, laboratory analysis and identification of acquired evidence, field trips and application level projects. Students will be required to take part in scientific investigations requiring the use of commonly available processing items and tools in the laboratory.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES:

Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Provided in class

Supplies
High top rubber boots. Flashlight. Goggles. USB Drive.

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

1. Demonstrate competency in the collection, processing, analyses, and evaluation of evidence.

2. Demonstrate competency in the principles of crime scene investigation, including the recognition, collection, identification, preservation, and documentation of physical evidence.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and the use of problem-solving within the field of forensic science.

4. Identify the role of the forensic scientist and physical evidence within the criminal justice system.

5. Demonstrate the ability to document and orally describe crime scenes, physical evidence, and scientific processes.

6. Identify and examine current and emerging concepts and practices within the forensic science field.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Course material will be presented in lecture and hands-on application of discussed skills.

G. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assessment for this class will consist of both written and skills application exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes-Lab Skills</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6) Certifications</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Presentations</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers/Reports</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Grade</td>
<td>100</td>
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H. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (BY DAY OR WEEK)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1-4</td>
<td>Criminalistics</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5-8</td>
<td>Crime Scene Inv./Processing</td>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIJ</td>
<td>Certification Courses (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due 10/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Exam 1 Penny Serial Killer</td>
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<td>Practical</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIJ</td>
<td>Certification Courses (3)</td>
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<td>Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8-10</td>
<td>Exam 2 Crime Scene</td>
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<td>Practical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handouts</td>
<td>Application of Skills</td>
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<td>Practical</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27-11/29</td>
<td>Holiday – No classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/3-Due 12/10</td>
<td>Final Exam/Crime Scene Inv. Inv./Case Report</td>
<td>Final Due12/10</td>
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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 F.

I. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Be on time for class.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Make up work and exams will be assessed on a case by case survey of your situation.

Extra Credit
There is no extra credit for this course

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones must be on silent or vibrate and must be put away.

Laptop Use
Use your laptop as needed for this course

Food in Class
No open containers in the lab. Snack may be eaten in classroom but must not disturb classroom process.

Missed Exam
Make-up exams are allowed at the convenience of the instructor.
Participation
Be on time to class, every class.

Others
N/A

J. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

• **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

• **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.

• **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
• **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. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must be submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)) for the last day 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**
  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

  If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

  [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)
Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

K. OTHER INFORMATION

Academic Advising
The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is in the Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods, by blackboard, or email.