

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC PATHOLOGY AND FORENSIC MEDICINE

Syllabus Fall 2006

Course Number# CHE2550

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Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm in CAP 307

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday; 10am – 12pm

The primary goal of the course "Introduction to Forensic Pathology and Forensic Medicine (for non-medical students)" is to provide a basic working knowledge for the interpretation of medical facts and the circumstances surrounding unexplained or violent deaths. In addition, the role of related forensic science disciplines will be presented. Forensic Pathology plays an important role in Crime Investigation because it provides important pieces of information. The material presented in this class will be beneficial to prospective criminal investigators and others who have an interest in Forensic Medicine.

PREREQUISITES: Bio 1110, CHE 1102 or equivalent with instructor's approval

TEXTS: Guide to Forensic Pathology by Jay Dix, MD and Robert Calaluca, MD; CRC Press

Introduction

- History
- Experts Encountered in Death Investigation
- Investigation and Autopsy
- Guidelines for the Death Scene Investigator Mary Fran Ernst
- Forensic Pathology
- Cause, Manner, and Mechanism of Death
- Time of Death, Decomposition, and Identification
- Sudden Natural Death
- Firearms
- Cutting and Stabbing
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Asphyxia and Drowning
- Electrical and Thermal and Exposure to Extreme Temperatures
- Blunt Trauma: General and Motor Vehicle-Pedestrian

- Blunt Head Trauma
- Pediatric Forensic Pathology
- Forensic DNA Testing
- Introduction
- DNA Structure
- Technical Considerations
- Statistical Basis for Interpretation
- Concluding Remarks
- Commonly Asked Questions
- Cases
- Helpful Hints in Testifying
- Final Exam

Lectures and Discussion:

This course is a challenge. It will stretch and develop your ability to learn, organize and integrate large amounts of complex information that will be useful throughout your professional life. Any material that is assigned or discussed can be tested.

Quizzes:

Unannounced quizzes will be given during the course. Quizzes will take 20 minutes. Multiple-choice formats may be used.

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected. The class is scheduled to provide information in small, learnable segments. If you miss one of those segments or if you fall behind the class in your studies, you will find it difficult to catch back up with the class. Students who miss class are rarely successful. Contact me prior to missing class and/or quiz, if possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Penalties for representing someone else's work as your own are severe. Don't do it.

Grading:

Each student's final grade will be based on the following:

- 60% - Exam
- 40% - Quizzes

Course letter grades will be assigned based on your total weighted percentages of possible points:

92.5 – 100%	A	72.5 – 76.4%	C
89.5 -92.4%	A-	69.5 – 72.4%	C-
86.5 – 89.4%	B+	66.5 – 69.4%	D+
82.5 – 86.4%	B	62.5 – 66.4%	D
79.5 – 82.4%	B-	59.5 – 62.4%	D-
76.5 – 79.4%	C+	Bellow 59.5%	F

How to study:

It is important to be actively involved in the class. Ask the questions and if the answer will involve more time than allowed in the class, we will schedule special review or problem solving sessions for the entire class. Here are some suggestions for success:

- a) Keep current with your study. Don't get behind;
- b) Read textbook material before it is covered in class;
- c) Listen actively in class and take some notes;
- d) Coordinate the notes with the text/questions/problems;
- e) Work the problems assigned for each chapter;
- f) Seek help early if you have trouble;

Exam:

Your exam will be based on course comprehensive material. The format of the exam will be that of multiple-choice. The exam will contain questions on terminology, concepts, chemical reactions, metabolic schemes, enzyme mechanisms and case solving situations, etc. If know you are going to miss, make arrangements in advance. Make-up exams are invariably more difficult than the original.

Making- up missed work:

No make-ups are available for quizzes given. Make-up exams are invariably more difficult than the original.

Personal note:

It will be greatly appreciated if you will turn off any possible electronic devices that can make noise during the class (phones, beepers etc.)

Field Trips or Professional Guests Lecturers are expected:

Field trips may be arranged with the local Forensic Pathology Department.