



*CRIJ 3353 Biological Aspects of Forensic Science*– Spring 2020  
Instructor: Tammy E. Bracewell, Ph.D.

## COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

### Class Location:

- HH 318

### Class Duration & Hours:

- Jan 13-May 8, 2020 T/R 9:30-10:45

Office Hours: HH 204F Tuesdays 8:30-9:30 & 10:45-11:30, or by appt.

### Contact information:

- [tammy.bracewell@tamuct.edu](mailto:tammy.bracewell@tamuct.edu) or Canvas inbox \*\*\* preferred\*\*\*
- Please direct all email communication through this email.
- When emailing, always identify yourself and what course you are in. In general, when communicating electronically you should use complete sentences and be very clear about what you are asking or saying to avoid miscommunication.
- I check my email several times a day. I check Canvas at least once a day. These are the two best ways to reach me. If you need to talk to me outside of office hours please email or message me.

**\*\*\*Note: This syllabus is subject to revisions when necessary throughout the semester. Students will be notified of any changes via Canvas.\*\*\***

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## MODE OF INSTRUCTION AND COURSE ACCESS

This class meets face to face with some online components and resources. As this class has online components, students must be able to access Canvas. Students can access Canvas on the Texas A&M-Central Texas website: [www.tamuct.edu](http://www.tamuct.edu). Log in with your TAMUCT issued ID and your password. If you have difficulty using Canvas, contact Help Desk Central 24/7 by phone at (254) 519-5466 or live chat at <http://hdc.tamu.edu>.

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. **Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## **STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION**

This is a lecture class with online components. Most communication between the instructor and students will be in person. However, students can contact me via Canvas and all students are able to schedule a telephone conference or meet with me during office hours.

I will check and reply to student messages on a daily basis – students should expect a response within 24 hours Monday-Friday. Any deviations from this will be announced on Canvas. Checking Canvas frequently is important as this is where any class announcements will be posted.

It is HIGHLY recommended that you go into your “settings” in Canvas, select “notifications”, and elect to receive emails when announcements are made. You are responsible for obtaining information in a timely manner.

My preferred method of electronic student interaction is via Canvas. All students should identify the class they are in, use proper salutations and signatures, identify a question, be succinct, and maintain professionalism in any correspondence. Deviations from these guidelines will likely not receive a response. Additionally, students should check the syllabus for probable answers regarding common questions.

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### **Copyright Notice.**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas’ Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

## WARRIOR SHIELD

### Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### 1.0 Catalogue Description

**Biological Aspects of Forensic Science. (3-0)** This course provides the non-science student with an overview of various forensic biological sciences, and their relation to crime scene investigation and the collection, preservation and identification of evidence. It covers methods of laboratory analysis including forensic disciplines of pathology, anthropology, odontology, entomology, toxicology, serology, DNA, and blood pattern analysis.

### 2.0 Course Objectives

By the end of this course you should be able to demonstrate an understanding of biological aspects of forensic science.

1. Understand the scope of biological forensic science.
2. Demonstrate competency in how biological evidence plays a key part in criminal justice.
3. Demonstrate a rudimentary understanding of processing biological evidence.

### 3.0 Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will define the different aspects of biological forensic science
2. Students will correctly identify best practices regarding crime scene processing
3. Students will appropriately apply theoretical frame works to mock scenarios

### 4.0 Required Textbooks

Houck & Siegel (2015). Fundamentals of Forensic Science (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Elsevier: Oxford.

\*\*\*Each student will need a lab coat. These can be purchased at the bookstore for around \$10. You must have a lab coat by 1/22/19 or you will not be allowed in the lab.\*\*\*

## **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

Supplementary material may take the form of handouts, oral presentations and references from your instructor, presentations by students, and articles we read. Supplementary materials are handed out in class or posted to Canvas.

## **REQUIRED COURSE WORK**

### **I. Labs 8 (400 pts)**

There will be 8 labs this semester. You must be in class to complete and obtain credit. If you miss class you will receive a zero for the assignment. No make-up labs will be provided. See course information regarding late assignments for more information.

### **II. Exams 2 (200 pts)**

Two exams will be given in class. You must take the exam with a pen, no pencils are allowed. If you are late for an exam, you will not get extra time. Additionally, if any students have finished the exam before you come to class, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

### **III. Safety course (pass/fail)**

All students must complete the online safety course, pass the quiz, and print out and sign the acknowledgement. This is due on 1/16/20. You will not be allowed in the lab on 1/16/20 if you have not completed the safety course. It is located in modules on Canvas.

## **OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE COURSE**

**I. Late assignments:** Late assignments will generally not be accepted. In the event a student misses a class for a legitimate reason (work or medical) advanced notice is required to make up any work. Documentation (including date and time) will be required for any make up assignments.

In the event you have an excused absence and miss a lab your make-up assignment will be in the form of 3 page paper over the lab techniques that were used. If you have an excused absence on the date of the midterm you can take a make-up exam on the date of the final. If you have an excused absence on the date of the final you must, as with any other missed assignment, provide advanced notice. The only available date where students can make up the final for an excused absence is 5/7.

**II. Supplementary Material:** Additional information may be given that supplement the topics to be addressed. This supplementary material is designed to broaden the educational experience and create more variety to the usual lecture/discussion format of class presentations. You are responsible for all information in the supplementary material.

**III. Extra Credit:** Extra credit is not available in this class.

**IV. Punctuality:** Please be ON TIME to this class. Excessive tardiness is a distraction to the entire class and will not be tolerated. Occasionally things may come up and you may run late. In this instance please enter as quietly as possible and take the first available seat.

**V. Civility:** While this is a forensics class it is inevitable that some sensitive topics (race, religion, etc...) will be discussed. All students are expected to treat each other with respect. You may disagree but you must do so with civility. Rude or degrading behavior will not be tolerated.

**VI. Posting of Grades:** All student grades will be posted in the Canvas grade book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool.

### **VII. Attendance**

Attendance on a regular basis and participation in class discussions is expected. It is to your benefit to show up to class regularly; often, I will be introducing material that is not covered in any of your assigned readings, yet such material will be instrumental in your ability to successfully fulfill the other course requirements. I have observed a direct correlation over the years between class attendance and course grade; those that attend class regularly often have higher grades than those who rarely or sporadically attend – something to think about.

Just as an employer expects you to come to work, I expect you to come to class. If you need to be absent for any reason, it is **your responsibility** to obtain class notes from another student; it is not the instructor's responsibility to provide this material to you.

### **IX. Miscellaneous**

- **GRAPHIC.** This class contains a lot of graphic material. You will not be warned when graphic images will appear, just anticipate at a minimum of every few slides. We will also be discussing classes. If you have any negative reactions to the content please step outside if necessary. If you have any personal experiences that you think I should be aware of please let me know. This would include if you were a victim or a relative of a victim of a violent crime and are worried about triggering memories.
- You are responsible for reading the textbook and any other material **PRIOR** to class. I cannot go over the entire textbook while in class. Lectures compliment the text and help with understanding material. Lecture time will be spent explaining concepts, not going over verbatim what is in the text.

### **X. Safety**

- **ALL** lab procedures must be followed at all times. Failure to follow lab safety protocol will result in immediate removal from the classroom.

## XI. Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

Assignment	Points	My Grade
Exams	200 points	
Labs	400	
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	
537-600 points	A	
477-536 points	B	
419-476 points	C	
357-418 points	D	
<357points	F	

**At the end of the semester there will be NO curve and no extra points given. It is up to YOU to ensure you have the grade you want.**

## XII. Course Calendar<sup>1</sup>

Week

Date	Description	Reading/Assignments
<b>Jan 14</b>	Course expectations/Syllabus Personal introductions	
<b>Jan 16</b>	The Nature of Evidence	Chapter 3 <b>SAFETY TRAINING DUE</b>
<b>Jan 21</b>	Separation Methods	Chapter 6
<b>Jan 23</b>	Separation Methods-Lab 1	Chapter 6
<b>Jan 28</b>	Pathology	Chapter 7
<b>Jan 30</b>	Pathology	Chapter 7
<b>Feb 4</b>	Anthropology /Odontology	Chapter 8
<b>Feb 6</b>	Anthropology/Odontology- Lab 2	Chapter 8
<b>Feb 11</b>	Anthropology/Odontology- Lab 2	Chapter 8
<b>Feb 13</b>	Entomology –Lab 3	Chapter 9
<b>Feb 18</b>	Entomology	Chapter 9: Lecture on Canvas
<b>Feb 20</b>	Exam 1	
<b>Feb 25</b>	Serology/Blood Stain	Chapter 10
<b>Feb 27</b>	Serology/Blood Stain	Chapter 10
<b>Mar 3</b>	Serology/Blood Stain	Chapter 10
<b>Mar 5</b>	Serology/Blood Stain-Labs 4	Chapter 10
<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
<b>Mar 17</b>	Serology/Blood Stain-Labs 5	Chapter 10

<b>Mar 19</b>	Serology/Blood Stain-Lab 4/5	Chapter 10
<b>Mar 24</b>	DNA	Chapter 11
<b>Mar 26</b>	DIY lab-NO CLASS	***DIY lab due via Canvas*** (Lab 6)
<b>Mar 31</b>	DIY lab (lab 6)	Presentations
<b>Apr 2</b>	DNA	Chapter 11
<b>Apr 7</b>	DNA-Lab 7	Chapter 11
<b>Apr 9</b>	DNA-Lab 7	Chapter 11
<b>Apr 14</b>	Hair	Chapter 12
<b>Apr 16</b>	Illicit Drugs	Chapter 13
<b>Apr 21</b>	Toxicology	Chapter 14
<b>Apr 23</b>	Toxicology-Lab 8	Chapter 14
<b>Apr 28</b>	Catch-up Day	
<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>Review</b>	
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Exam</b>	
<b>May 7</b>	Last day for make-ups	

**\*\*\*this calendar is a guide and is subject to changes by the instructor...any changes will be announced to the class and posted on Canvas\*\*\***

### **Important University Dates:**

Dates can be found at: <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\_Request\_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to

preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.



## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu) .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Writing Center**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

## **University Library**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to

students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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## **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].