



CRIJ 3353 Biological Aspects of Forensic Science– Spring 2021
Instructor: Tammy E. Bracewell, Ph.D.

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Class Location:

- ONLINE

Class Duration:

- 1/19/21-5/14/21

Office Hours: Virtual or by Phone...by appointment

Email:

- tammy.bracewell@tamuct.edu
- Please direct all course communication through Canvas.
- 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 Canvas at least once a day. These are the two best ways to reach me.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION AND COURSE ACCESS

This course is a 100% online course and uses the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System:[<https://tamuct.instructure.com>] **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Students can access Canvas on the Texas A&M-Central Texas website: 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>.

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support.

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

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: 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.

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.

STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION

This is an online class. Most communication between the instructor and students will be via Canvas and email and all students are able to schedule a telephone conference or WebEx meeting.

I will check and reply to student emails on a daily basis – students should expect a response within 24 hours. 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. Additionally, students should check the syllabus before asking questions that are likely answered in the syllabus. .

You should generally expect a response within 24 hours. I do make exceptions for exams when I check messages more frequently. If you send a message on weekend, I may reply but please do not expect a reply until the following Monday unless it is during an exam

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 (3rd ed). Elsevier: Oxford.

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

****Check course calendar for ALL due dates****

I. Forensic Career Profiles (4X25 points-100pts)

You will complete 4 career profiles of forensic professions. Detailed assignment instructions can be found in Canvas.

II. Labs/Assignments (4X50 points-200pts)

You will complete a variety of applications exercises this semester in different formats. Detailed instructions can be found in Canvas.

III. Video and lecture quizzes (10X5pts-50)

You will have access to multiple resources throughout the semester. Ten of the lectures or videos that are posted will have an embedded quiz. These are listed on the syllabus and in Canvas, they will not be a surprise.

IV. Exams (2X100 points-200 pts)

You will have a midterm and final.

OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE COURSE

I. Late assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted.

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. Note: I will ONLY accept assignments that are submitted properly: through Canvas. Do not email or send me a message with an attachment. You MUST submit the assignment in the appropriate location within the assignments section. Additionally, if you have questions....ASK! Do not delay, if you are receiving low grades on your discussions and do not know why....ASK!

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

XI. Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

Assignment	Points	My Grade
Exams	200 points	
Labs/Assignments	200 points	
Career Profiles	100 points	
Quizzes	50 points	
Total	550	
492-550 points	A	
437-491 points	B	
382-437 points	C	
327-381 points	D	
<381points	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.

Course Calendar ***Note: Assignments due are in parentheses* Arlington Heights Park District**

Performance Improvement Plan

Date: September 17, 2015

To: John Doe, Park Groundsman I

From: Mike Kay, Maintenance Supervisor II

Re: PERFORMANCE

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Since July, we have had several discussions regarding your conduct. Specifically, we met on July 26, August 17, August 28 and September 9, 2015, to discuss how your

angry outbursts, where you raise your voice, make intimidating comments and swear at your coworkers, have negatively affected the workplace. On August 28 and September 9, you were given written warnings for this behavior. We discussed the issues below and I pointed out the severity of these issues and the need for you to correct them immediately. Specifically, we discussed the following:

- Your raising of your voice and swearing at your coworkers when you are angry.*
- Your stating intimidating comments towards your coworkers when you are angry.*

Since our discussion on September 9, 2015, the above concerns have not improved significantly. We are therefore faced with a serious issue and must place you on a Performance Improvement Plan. During the next 60 days, you will be responsible for successfully meeting the following objectives and correcting the issues mentioned above, or further disciplinary action, up to and including termination, will occur. You are expected to perform the following objectives throughout the entire 60-day period and throughout your tenure with the Arlington Heights Park District, starting today:

- You must immediately cease from raising your voice and swearing at your coworkers when you are angry.*
- You must immediately cease from making intimidating comments towards your coworkers when you are angry.*

Because you play an important role here, you must take the necessary steps to correct your behavior. I believe you are able to achieve these objectives and I will be working closely with you in an effort to ensure your success. As always, I will be available to coach and counsel you in any areas that you require. We will also meet weekly to review your progress.

Your signature below confirms your understanding of this document and our discussion and your agreement to meet the objectives outlined above.

Employee's Signature and Date

Supervisor's Signature and Date

1/18	Syllabus Ch 3	Introduction Journal Entry The Nature of Evidence (Assignment/Lab 1)	Week 1
1/25	Ch 6	Separation Methods (Quiz 1)	Week 2
2/1	Ch 7	Pathology (Quiz 2, Profile 1)	Week 3
2/8	Ch 7	Pathology (Quiz 3)	Week 4
2/15	Ch 8	Anthropology/Odontology (Quiz 4,Assign/Lab 2)	Week 5

2/22	Ch 8	Anthropology/Odontology (Profile 2)	Week 6
3/1	Ch 9	Entomology (Quiz 5)	Week 7
3/8	Midterm	Available March 11-14	Week 8
3/15	Spring Break		
3/22	Ch 10	Serology/Blood Stain (Quiz 6)	Week 9
3/29	Ch 10	Serology/Blood Stain (Quiz 7)	Week 10
4/5	Ch 11	DNA (Quiz 8, Profile 3)	Week 11
4/12	Ch 11	DNA (Assignment/Lab3) (DNA)	Week 12
4/19	Ch 12	Hair (Quiz 9)	Week 13
4/26	Ch 13	Illicit Drugs (Quiz 10, Profile 4)	Week 14
5/3	Ch 14	Toxicology (Assignment/Lab4) (DIY)	Week 15
5/10	Final Exam	Available May 9-12	Week 16

Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59PM CST. For example, the assignment for Week 1 is due January 24th at 11:59PM.

*****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

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

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.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these

measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d->

46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty 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. Once you submit the completed 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, 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 .

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 except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering 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. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will

assist students in developing more effective composing practices. 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 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 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].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

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/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

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.

Copyright. 2021 by Tammy Bracewell at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, College of Arts and Sciences; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254.519.5441; Fax 254.519.5781; tammy.bracewell@tamuct.edu