

FORENSIC SCIENCE 6337.01
FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
Spring 2018
Department of Forensic Science

PROFESSOR: Sparks Veasey, M.D., J.D.

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CLASS HOURS: MW 1 P.M. – 2:20

CLASSROOM: Chemistry and Forensic Science Center 00101

OFFICE HOURS: M 7-9 and 3-5 P.M.; W 7-9 and 3-5 P.M.; F 1-4 P.M. (All office visits by appointment during the above listed times).

TEXTBOOK: *Simpson's Forensic Medicine*, 11th Edition, CRC Press, ISBN-13: 978-0340986035. Authors Jason Payne-James, Richard Jones, Steven Karch, John Manlove.
(Online) To access, while logged on to SHUS: www.crcnetbase.com/doi/book/10.1201/b13324

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will address basic concepts of forensic pathology with an emphasis on those aspects which may intersect with other forensic sciences and provide students with a basis for discussion of a case based upon the totality of findings with the forensic pathologist to arrive at a correct ascription of a cause and manner of death.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide understanding of basic Forensic Pathology to the extent that the student will be able to understand and converse with a forensic pathologist in a consultation regarding a particular case.
2. Provide an understanding of critical forensic pathology findings, including forensic investigator information, that might impact the forensic scientist's ultimate conclusion.
3. Improve student analytical and abstract thinking skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations

There will be two major examinations. Each may be comprehensive. Each will consist of 45 questions and will be true/ false, fill in the blank, or short answer. These exams will constitute 90 % of the final grade. Additionally, oral presentations will be assigned and short papers may be assigned. These will count 10 % of the final grade. No make-up will be allowed for any exam that the student misses, unless prior notification and agreement with the professor, with VERY GOOD REASON for allowing a make-up. If no notification is made, the student will receive a 0 for the examination regardless of the reason. Written and verified justification may be required if notification is made prior to the beginning of the exam, Oversleeping is not a justification and will not be accepted.

Examination questions for the major exams will come from assigned reading or classroom presentations and lectures. Anything discussed in class is subject to testing, and the material from the online text is subject to testing whether or not discussed in class.

Test results will normally be reviewed at the following class session. In incidences where the professor determines that more than one correct answer exists for a question, credit may be awarded for an answer in addition to the keyed response. To gain benefit of this change, the student must be present at the review session.

Failure to follow directions during examinations may result in a reduction in the grade.

GRADING:

Final grade determination will be based upon 100 possible points. The three tests will count 95% of the final grade. Letter grades will be determined using the following scale: 90-100 points an "A"; 80-89 points a "B"; 70-79 points a "C"; 60-69 points a "D"; and less than 60 points an "F". Students should neither depend on nor expect a "curve" or other statistical modification of this grading schedule.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

No make-up exams will be given for the major exams unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy.

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES: ACADEMIC HONESTY, DISABLED STUDENT POLICY, STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and

out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Students with Disabilities Policy

If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holy Day Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For complete information regarding of the university policy on observance of religious holy days see:

Student Academic Policies concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

IPODS, pagers and cellular telephones must be turned off prior to class. All such devices must be stowed during exam periods. Text messaging during class is not permitted. In the event of a special circumstance necessitating communication during class, notify the professor prior to the beginning of class.

Students may use their laptop computer to take notes. Any other use will result in ejection from class. The professor retains the right to view the student’s computer screen at any time. Laptop computers, “smartphones” and similar electronic devices may NOT be used during exam

periods. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered *de facto* evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.

Students with a bona fide need for emergency communication during class time shall make acceptable arrangements with the professor. **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON THE USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES MAY BE FOUND AT:**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS MEETING:

Optimally, the following topics will begin on the dates indicated. **However, coverage of the topic will continue until completed.** The student should prepare all materials by the respective assignment dates. Additional readings may be assigned during the course. The below chapters are from the previously assigned text.

Jan. 17	Course Overview	No Reading Assignment
Jan. 22	Basic Concepts and Overview	Chapter 1
Jan. 24	Postmortem Changes	Chapters 3 and 5
Jan. 29	I.D.	Chapter 4
Jan. 31	Sudden Death	Chapter 6
Feb. 5	Classification of Injuries	Chapter 8
Feb. 7	Infant Injuries and Death	Chapters 7 and 13
Feb. 12	Gunshot Wounds	Chapter 10
Feb. 14	Death in Custody	Chapter 11
Feb. 19	Sexual Assault	Chapter 12
Feb. 21	Motor Vehicle Deaths	Chapter 14
Feb. 26	Exam 1	

Feb. 28	Asphyxia	Chapter 15
Mar. 5	Head Injuries	To Be Assigned
Mar. 7	Elder Abuse	To Be Assigned
Mar. 12-16	Spring Break	
Mar. 19	Drowning	Chapter 16
Mar. 21	Scene Investigation	No Reading Assignment
Mar. 26	Homicide v. Suicide	No Reading Assignment
Mar. 28	Sharp Force Injuries	To Be Assigned
Apr. 2	Exposure Deaths	Chapter 17
Apr. 4	Death Investigation in Texas	<i>Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapt.49</i>
Apr. 9	Continuation of Above	
Apr. 11	Ethics in Forensic Medicine	Chapter 2
Apr. 16	History of Forensic Pathology and Death Investigation in the United States	Lecture
Apr. 18	Toxicology	Presentations and Lecture
Apr. 23	DNA Controversies	Presentations Only
Apr. 25	The Death Certificate	Lecture
Apr. 30	Review and Catch-up	
May 2	Review and Catch-up	
May 9 1:00 P.M.	Exam 2	