The University of Southern Mississippi
School of Criminal Justice
FSC 301 - Forensic Biology I
Syllabus Fall 2017
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Class: FSC 301
Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am – 12:15pm
Place: AKH 107
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00am–12:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-11:00am
Credit hours: 3 hrs.
Description: Lecture and discussion covering aspects related to the identification and analysis of blood and other body fluids found at the crime scene and samples submitted to the laboratory.
Prerequisite: FSC 140, 141
Drop date: Last day to drop and receive 100% financial credit: August 23rd, 2017 (No tuition credit issued after this date)
Drop date: Last day to drop class without instructor permission: August 23rd, 2017.
Drop date: Last day to withdraw and receive grade of W: October 27th, 2017. After this date, the student will receive the actual letter grade earned in the course.

Course Communication: Communication with students will primarily be during class lectures. If there are any changes that arise in the syllabus or class schedule between class meetings, each student will be notified of the change via USM email. Therefore, it is a given that each student is expected to have their USM email address activated for this purpose.

Class Procedures and Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class es and be on time for the start of the class. Cell phones MUST be turned off prior to the start of class.
Class participation: Students should be prepared to participate in class discussion based on assigned readings. Participation is expected to be professional and on a level commensurate with a college student. Announced or unannounced quizzes may be held to evaluate student awareness and understanding.
Exams and grades: There will be three written exams and three quizzes. Exam questions will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer type questions.

Exam and quiz scores:
Written exams: 3 x 20% each = 60%
Quizzes: 3 x 10% each = 30%
Attendance: 10% = 10%
Total: = 100%

Attendance: Two absences are excused; a third absence will forfeit the 10% for attendance.
Final exam schedule: Tuesday, December 5th, 2017: 10:45am – 1:15 pm.
Grading scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F
Lecture outline: The lectures will follow the handouts given to students.
Course Objectives: The course is designed to familiarize students with:
1. The history of forensic serology.
2. The techniques that are used to determine body fluid types.
3. A detailed description of serological methods and their significance.
4. The composition of stains (such as neat and mixtures) and their significance.
Intended Student Audience: This course is primarily directed towards students who will be pursuing a career in forensic sciences, either field work or laboratory work.
Learning outcome: Upon completion of this course, students will understand the history and development of forensic serology test markers. They will learn the theory and principle behind the tests for commonly encountered body fluids like blood, semen and saliva. Students will familiarize with tests and interpretations carried out by technical investigators and/or crime scene investigators on site.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense. Any written or oral presentation in which the writer or speaker does not distinguish clearly between original and borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. An act of plagiarism may lead to a failing grade on the work involved and in the course. Please refer to the USM student hand book for more details.

ADA Syllabus Statement: If a student has a disability under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Telephone: (601)266-5024 or (228)214-3232
FAX: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@USM.edu.

Academic Integrity
All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

Suggested Text books: