Course Syllabus

Veterinary Forensic Medicine

VEM 5324
Spring 2015
1 credit

Course Meeting Time and Place:
Monday through Friday, April 13 through April 27, 2015
3:00 pm to 4:50 pm each day
Large Animal Auditorium, College of Veterinary Medicine
* Exception: Class meets from 8:30 to 10:30 am on Monday 4/20/15

Forensic Exam of the Live Animal Discussion:
Friday April 17, 2015
3:00 pm to 4:50 pm
Clinical Techniques Lab, Room VS-20, College of Veterinary Medicine

Forensic Necropsy Discussion:
Friday April 25, 2015
3:00 pm to 4:50 pm
Anatomy Lab, VAB 1st floor, College of Veterinary Medicine

Final Exam:
Monday April 27, 2015
8:30 to 10:30 am
Large Animal Auditorium, College of Veterinary Medicine

Course Overview or Purpose
The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the application of veterinary forensic sciences in crimes involving animals, including recognition of abuse, crime scene investigation, and interacting with the legal community.

Course Objectives and/or Goals
Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to identify, collect, and analyze evidence related to crimes involving animals. The student will be able to recognize signs of abuse, interpret causes of injury or death, and properly document all findings in an appropriate legal report. The student will have a greater appreciation of the different forensic science disciplines and how they can be applied to animal cases.
Instructor Information

Course Coordinator: Dr. Cynda Crawford, Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program, Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Room 348 Small Animal Hospital, 352-273-8723, crawfordc@ufl.edu. Office Hours: by appointment

Lead Course Instructor: Dr. Rachel Touroo, Director of Veterinary Forensics, ASPCA, rachel.touroo@aspca.org. Office Hours: by appointment

Other course instructors:

Jason H. Byrd, Ph.D., DABFE
Forensic Entomologist
Associate Director, Maples Center for Forensic Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine
jbyrd@ufl.edu

Cynda Crawford, DVM, Ph.D
Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine
Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
crawfordc@ufl.edu

Amanda Fitch, M.S.
ASPCA Crime Scene Analyst
Maples Center for Forensic Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine
afitch@pathology.ufl.edu

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., DABFT
Forensic Toxicologist
Director, Maples Center for Forensic Medicine
Director, Forensic Medicine Division in the Department of Pathology, Immunology, and Laboratory Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine
Bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

Adam Leath
Southeast Regional Director
Field Investigations and Response
ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group
Adam.leath@aspca.org

Course Materials
No textbook is required. Supplemental reading material is provided in the Sakai course site.
Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<td>Forensic Exam of the Live Animal Discussion/Report</td>
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<td>Forensic Necropsy Discussion/Report</td>
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For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

Course evaluations should be completed by the end of the final lecture on April 24, 2015. Please help us create the best course possible by providing your constructive feedback.

Topical Outline

April 13-17, 2015. Week 1:
- Lecture 1: Introduction to Veterinary Forensics
- Lecture 2: Animal Abuse, Cruelty, Neglect
- Lecture 3: Animal Hoarding and Puppy Mills
- Lecture 4: Starvation
- Lecture 5: Dogfighting
- Lecture 6: Dogfighting
- Lecture 7: Evidence Collection and Handling
- Lecture 8: Clinical Forensic Exam
- Lecture 9/10: Forensic Exam of the Live Animal Discussion

April 20-24, 2015. Week 2:
- Lecture 11: Non-accidental Injury and False Cases of Abuse
- Lecture 12: NAI Case
- Lecture 13: Blunt and Sharp Force Trauma
- Lecture 14: Gunshot Wounds
- Lecture 15: Forensic Entomology
- Lecture 16: Forensic Toxicology
- Lecture 17: Forensic Necropsy and Report
- Lecture 18: Forensic Necropsy Case
- Lecture 19/20: Forensic Necropsy Discussion

Examinations:
Final examination: April 27, 2015 8:30 am 10:30 am
Statement of University’s Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)

**Academic Integrity** – Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or this web site for more details: [www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)).

Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior. *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

**Policy Related to Class Attendance**
Attendance at all lectures is required. Excuses for absences will be considered on an individual basis.

**Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work**
Students are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis.

**Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
If classroom accommodation because of a disability is required, students must first register with the Dean of Students Office ([http://www.dso.ufl.edu/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Associate Dean for Students and Instruction in the College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the course coordinator when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

**Counseling and Student Health**
Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: [http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/) or [http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent)

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women’s health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: [www.health.ufl.edu/shcc](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc)

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

*BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.*