

FSCI 4850B - ST Forensic Pathology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43317,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Reza Alaeddini

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Assistant Professor of Forensic Science

Instructor Professional Qualifications: PhD, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Sydney, Australia, 2010

Instructor Office Location: Ward Beecher Hall 3041

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Course Description

This lecture-only course provides students with an understanding of forensic pathology principles, focusing on the determination of cause and manner of death in medico-legal cases. In addition to natural disease-related deaths and post-mortem changes, the course explores forensic investigations of various types of fatal injuries, including those encountered in criminal cases. Students will gain insight into the role of forensic pathologists in death investigations and legal proceedings. Prereq.: Senior standing or permission of instructor. 3.s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	Forensic Pathology	Pekka Saukko and Bernard Knight	978-0340972533

Optional Textbook:

This textbook offers an in-depth overview of forensic pathology, focusing on the medico-legal investigation of death. It covers essential topics including postmortem changes, trauma analysis, and the pathology of various causes of death. The book will serve as the primary reference for understanding the practical and theoretical aspects of forensic autopsy and will support classroom discussions and case-based learning.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus Chapter 1	Course Introduction The Forensic Autopsy	Review Syllabus Review Chapter 1
8/31	Chapter 1 (Cont)	The Forensic Autopsy	Complete Syllabus Acknowledgement Review Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Assignment 1
9/7	Chapter 1 (Cont)	The Forensic Autopsy	Review Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Assignment 2
9/14	Chapter 2	The pathophysiology of death	Review Chapters 2 Chapter 1 Quiz & Assignment
9/21	Chapter 3	The establishment of Identity	Review Chapter 3 Chapter 2 Quiz & Assignment
9/28	Chapter 4	The pathology of wounds	Review Chapter 4 Chapter 3 Quiz & Assignment
10/5	Chapter 5	Head and Spinal injuries	Review Chapter 5 Chapter 4 Quiz & Assignment



10/12	Mid-term Exam Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 Chapter 6	Mid-term Exam Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 Chest and abdominal injuries	Mid-term Exam Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 Review Chapter 6 Chapter 5 Quiz & Assignment
10/19	Chapter 7	Self-inflicted injury	Review Chapter 7 Chapter 6 Quiz & Assignment
10/26	Chapter 8	Gunshot and Explosion Deaths	Review Chapter 9 Chapter 7 Quiz & Assignment
11/2	Chapter 9	Transportation Injuries	Review Chapter 10 Chapter 8 Quiz & Assignment
11/9	Chapter 10	Burns and scalds	Review Chapter 10 Chapter 9 Quiz & Assignment
11/16	Chapter 11	Electrical fatalities	Review Chapter 11 Chapter 10 Quiz & Assignment
11/23	Chapter 12	Suffocation and Asphyxia	Review Chapter 12 Chapter 11 Quiz & Assignment
11/30	Chapter 13	Immersion Death	Review Chapter 13 Chapter 12 Quiz & Assignment Chapter 13 Quiz & Assignment
12/7	Exam 2	Dec 7 Monday 1300-1500	Exam 2 - Chapter 6 to the end

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.