BIOL 3355: Toxicology
Fall 2019
Section 001: M/W 4:00-5:20 PM
Life Science Building 118

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Faculty Profile: https://www.uta.edu/profiles/ashley-purgason Here you can access this syllabus under the “Teaching” tab.

Email Policy: Please check your UT Arlington email address regularly. If I need to communicate with you I will do so using this email address. Use email exchanges with faculty as an opportunity to practice professionalism. Please use a greeting and a closing and write in complete sentences. This is your chance to practice the way you should communicate with future employers. Please be detailed and appropriate. Excellent communication skills can contribute to your success in academic and professional endeavors.

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM in Central Library Academic Plaza Room #1 (2nd floor) or by appointment. Students in higher education often have a misconception that Office Hours are only for students having difficulty with the material taught in their courses. These hours are certainly for that; but they are also an opportunity for you to discuss ways in which course concepts connect to other material you’ve learned, your scientific interests, career options, study habits, importance of your future as an Alumnus of UT Arlington, unique programs you should consider participating in, ways in which you can potentially increase your success, research of faculty members and science-at-large, and other academically oriented topics you wish to explore. Many studies show that engagement with faculty members correlates directly with student success. I will do my best to engage you in the classroom and invite you to do your best to engage with me during Office Hours or by appointment. If you are seeking a letter of recommendation or think that you might be one day then I would expect to see you in my office hours at least every other week. I cannot write a letter of any substance if I do not get to know you beyond the grade you earn in my course. IMPORTANT: I play a dual role at the University and hold an administrative position. I therefore will only be present in my office during office hours or when you schedule an appointment with me. I will rarely be available for “drop-ins” unfortunately so please do plan accordingly. Thank you.

Course Description: An introduction to the general principles of toxicology with an emphasis on certain classes of toxic agents, their sources and toxic effects, as well as their environmental fates. Pollution of various media (air, water and soil) and the differences between them will be discussed. Prerequisite: BIOL 1441 or 4 hours of BIOLTRAN; CHEM 1441 and CHEM 1442.

Student Learning Outcomes: As the instructor I will strive to ensure that students

- identify the sources and effects of classes of toxic agents
- describe the ways in which various media become polluted
- predict the fates of toxic agents
- demonstrate the ability to locate and assess primary literature
- communicate effectively to varying types of audiences
- improve critical thinking skills
- explain how concepts learned prior to this course apply to the material presented here

**Required Textbook:** Casarett & Doull’s Essentials of Toxicology, 2nd or 3rd Edition, Klaassen and Watkins III

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** Examinations will be primarily multiple choice and may have short answer or essay question(s).

**Canvas:** Please check Canvas regularly as pertinent information will be provided there and often the answers to your questions may be found there. Students can access their courses by clicking on the Canvas link on the UTA home page, or through myapps.uta.edu. Students will be prompted by UTA’s Single Sign-on to enter their password.

**Regular class days:** Please ensure you have a writing utensil at every lecture.

**Day of an examination:** You will need a #2 pencil, a PDP form 4521 (blue exam bubble form), and your student ID card. Please ensure that you mark the answers on your Scantron. Answers circled on an exam will not be evaluated for credit. If you prefer to write in ink it is also recommended that you bring a pen for potential short answer or essay questions. The use of any electronic devices during an examination is forbidden.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I may take attendance sporadically. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Other Requirements:** It is highly encouraged that you read the chapter to be covered before class. This will advance your understanding of the material delivered in the lectures.

**Grading:**
- 3 in-class examinations, 100 points each, each worth 25% of your total grade
- Comprehensive final examination, 100 points, worth 25% of your total grade

To calculate your final grade:
A. Multiply each of your in-class examination grades by .25 each and then sum the three numbers
B. Multiply your comprehensive final examination grade by .25
C. Sum A and B

Grades will be assigned as follows: A=89.5-100, B=79.5-89.4, C=69.5-79.4, D=59.5-69.4, F=0-59.4

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.
*Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:* Beyond the time required to attend each lecture class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in lecture-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

*Make-up Exams:* Make-up examinations are only given due to extenuating circumstances as determined by the instructor. Most of these will require that the necessary documentation be provided.

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the Institutional Information page (http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule
Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Please watch the following as a resource: library tutorials http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism and http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/.

Student Success Programs: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring by appointment, drop-in tutoring, etutoring, supplemental instruction, mentoring (time management, study skills, etc.), success coaching, TRIO Student Support Services, and student success workshops. For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the Maverick Resources website.

The IDEAS Center (https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see Writing Center: OWL for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza (http://library.uta.eduacademic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation.

Librarian to Contact: Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.
Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located through the glass doors on the south, east and west sides of the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

Tentative Course Schedule: will be posted to Canvas. As the instructor for this course I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and this syllabus as needed to meet the needs of the students enrolled. -Dr. Purgason