



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

COURSE:	BIOL110 T&N-T Forensic Science and BIOL111 T&N-T (lab)
CREDIT:	3 Semester Hours (class). 2 Semester Hours (lab).
SEMESTER:	Fall 2026
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Chris Basel
CONTACT INFO:	Phone: 816-425-6201 E-mail: chris.basel@calvary.edu
OFFICE:	Ed. 224
MEETING TIME:	BIOL110 T-Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 AM. BIOL110 N-T-online. BIOL 111 T-Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 AM. BIOL111 N-T-online.
LOCATION:	BIOL110 T – Ed. 118 BIOL110 N-T – Online BIOL111 T – Ed. 118 BIOL111 N-T – Online

We live in a sin-filled, fallen world (Genesis 3). The first crime, Cain murdering Abel, was recorded in Genesis 4. Since then, unfortunately, crimes of all kinds have become increasingly common. God, being all-knowing and wise, knew that Cain murdered Abel. Humans don't have the attributes of God, so we have developed scientific tools to help us solve crimes. This is the field of forensic science.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

BIOL110 (4 hrs) A broad overview of fundamental concepts of forensic science for the non-science major. This includes classroom study, laboratory experiments, and field investigations. Emphasis is placed on a conceptual understanding of forensic science, including evaluating the crime scene, fingerprinting and facial recognition, bloodstain pattern analysis, firearms, forensic toxicology, DNA, fire, explosions, and digital forensics (e.g., computer and cell phone evidence).

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, and online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

Understanding forensic analyses is integral to forensic science; therefore, **it is required that students taking BIOL110 also take BIOL111 (lab) concurrently. Students not taking BIOL111 cannot take BIOL110.**

Choose one of the following lab sections:

BIOL111 T Forensic Science Lab. 2 hours. This course is the on-campus option for the lab and must be taken concurrently with BIOL110. Enrollment is limited to 10 students in BIOL111 T. (Fee: \$30)

BIOL111 N-T Forensic Science Lab. 2 hours. This course is the online option for the lab and must be taken concurrently with BIOL110. BIOL111 N-T is completed remotely and requires the purchase of a lab kit. (Fee: ~\$280)

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts of forensic science from a biblical worldview.
 - a. Program Objectives 1 and 3.
 - b. Assessments – chapter review questions, exams, and lab investigations.

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

- 1) Demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts of forensic science to real-world applications.
 - a. Program Objectives 1, 3, and 4.
 - b. Assessments – chapter review questions, exams, and lab investigations.
- 2) Read literature covering the biblical worldview of forensic science and demonstrate your understanding of these concepts by reporting on the literature clearly and concisely.
 - a. Program Objectives 2, 3, and 4.
 - b. Assessments – Biblical worldview essays.

III. REQUIREMENTS: (lab requirements only for BIOL111)

All students will be expected to:

- Participate frequently and make regular progress.
- Complete reading assignments, listen to lectures, and complete homework, essays, quizzes, lab reports, and tests on schedule.
- BIOL111: Work safely and complete all labs and lab reports on schedule.

IV. METHODS (references to the lab are only for BIOL111):

- A. **LECTURES:** Lectures will consist of material from the book and additional material from a variety of sources. Students should take notes during lectures, as the homework questions will be directly related to the lectures, and not all the information can be obtained from the book.
- B. **READING:** The textbook provides a framework for the class. Not every topic in the textbook will be addressed. Emphasis will be placed on the most important concepts and practical applications. The instructor will tell you which sections of each chapter will be covered.
- C. **HOMEWORK QUESTIONS:** You must complete the homework problems to understand the material and to do well on tests. Test questions will be taken directly from the homework, possibly with minor modification, or similar questions.
- D. **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW ESSAYS:** The purpose of this portion of the class is to develop your ability to analyze the complex issues associated with forensic science from the biblical worldview and to learn that you can defend your faith (1 Peter 3:15) using science. You will read articles or watch videos and then prepare essays that demonstrate your understanding of the topics. *For details about how to write the essays, see the Essay Guidelines in Canvas.*

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

- E. **TESTS:** Questions used for the regular exams will be taken from the homework, possibly with minor modifications, or similar questions. In addition, exams will include essay questions covering lecture topics. Test questions for the comprehensive portion of the final will be taken from the regular tests and new material covered since the last regular exam. Lab exam questions (BIOL111 T only) will be taken from lab handouts or related material.

All online students and on-campus students not taking tests during the class period must use the ProctorU test proctoring service. *The Exam Policy on Canvas gives more details. Also, see the ProctorU addendum at the end of this syllabus.*

- F. **MISSED OR LATE HOMEWORK OR ESSAYS:** Grades on late homework and essays will be decreased for each day that they are late. Assignments that are more than three days late will not be accepted and will receive no credit.

G. **LAB EXPERIMENTS:**

Students taking BIOL111 T: The first part of the on-campus lab will consist of six to ten weeks of experiments to learn how to conduct several crime lab techniques. The second part of the lab will be spent using the techniques that were learned to solve a simulated crime.

Students taking BIOL111N-T: Students will follow the instructions given on the online forensic science lab experiments. These experiments include a hands-on component.

H. **LAB PREPARATION AND REPORTS:**

Students taking BIOL111 T: Lab instructions must be read *before* coming to the lab. Lab reports should be completed and turned in via Canvas by the due date given in Canvas. Grades on late lab reports will be decreased for each day they are late. Lab reports that are turned in more than three days late will not be accepted and will receive no credit.

Students taking BIOL111N-T: Prepare lab reports as instructed by the software. Grades on late lab reports will be decreased for each day they are late. Lab reports that are turned in more than three days late will not be accepted and will receive no credit.

I. **LAB ATTENDANCE:**

BIOL111 T: Lab attendance is required except for absences officially excused by the university, or for extenuating circumstances such as illness or death in the family. Labs missed for any reason must be made up later, typically the next week. Missing more than two labs, even when excused by the university, may result in a lower grade. *See the lab attendance policy in Canvas for details.*

BIOL111 N-T: Lab is conducted remotely, and attendance at a specific time is not required.

J. **LAB SAFETY:**

Students taking BIOL111 T: Safety during lab activities must always be observed for your own safety, as well as the safety of others around you. Students performing lab experiments are responsible for planning and conducting experiments in accordance with the lab instructions and lab safety rules. Additional safety rules (when required) will be included in lab handouts. Safety will be discussed at the start of each lab, so if you are late, you may not be allowed to attend. Each student who participates in a lab exercise must clean up their lab area when finished before leaving. **All students must take a lab safety quiz covering the safety rules and sign a safety contract before working in the lab.**

Students taking BIOL111 N-T: Safety during lab activities must be observed at all times. Students performing lab experiments are responsible for planning and conducting experiments in accordance with the lab instructions and lab safety rules. Additional safety rules (when required) may be included with each lab. **All students must take a lab safety quiz covering the safety rules and sign a safety contract before completing any labs.**

K. HOW TO GET HELP:

I am available during my posted office hours in Ed. 224. Also, feel free to contact me via email or phone (see email address and phone numbers above).

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

V. GRADING See grading scale in the university catalog.

BIOL110 T&N-T

Chapter Review Questions	15%
Exams	75%
Biblical Worldview Essays	10%

BIOL111 T

Lab Investigations and Reports	90%
Midterm	5%
Final	5%

BIOL111 N-T

Lab Investigations and Reports	100%
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VI. MATERIALS – Required

A) **The Bible:** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version

B) **Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, 13th edition.**
Authors: Richard Saferstein and Tiffany Roy
ISBN-13: 9780137542512. Six months of access to the eTextbook. (\$65)
Pearson, 2020

Obtain the book at this website:

<https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/criminalistics-an-introduction-to-forensic-science/P200000001769/9780137542512>

If you want a hard copy of the text, you can purchase this *instead* of the eTextbook, but it is \$90. You can obtain this from the same website.

C) **Lab kit (only for students taking BIOL111 N-T):** It is required that you purchase the lab kit prepared for this class to complete the lab experiments for BIOL111 N-T. The cost is approximately \$280. Detailed instructions for purchasing the kit will be given on Canvas.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY – No need to purchase

Rivera, J. (2023). *Intro to Forensic Science From a Biblical Worldview*. Master Books.
ISBN: 978-1-68344-241-7

A copy of this text is on reserve in the library for this class.

VIII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

A detailed version of the class schedule, including due dates, will be posted on Canvas. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class, by email, or posted on Canvas.

LECTURE TOPIC(S)	CHAPTER(S)
Introduction and the Crime Scene	1-2
Physical Evidence	3
Blood Pattern Analysis	4
Death Investigation (brief)	5
Fingerprints	6
Forensic Biometrics	7
The Microscope	8
Firearms, Tool Marks, and Other Impressions	9
Matter, Light, and Glass Examination	10
Hairs and Fibers	11
Drugs and Forensic Toxicology	12-13
Metal, Paint, and Soil	14
Serology	15
DNA	16
Fires and Explosions	17
Document Examination	18
Computers and Mobile Devices	19-20

ProctorU Addendum

Calvary University uses ProctorU test proctoring service. ProctorU is a live online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. ProctorU is available 24/7, however, **you will need to schedule your proctoring session at least 72 hours in advance to avoid any on-demand scheduling fees.** Creating a ProctorU account is simple. You can do so by going to <https://go.proctoru.com/students/users/new?institution=2045>.

Students must read all information and comply with all directions below to be successful for their proctored exam experience. Calvary University hopes that students will have a smooth experience, and to decrease student anxiety and increase success, please use this guide to help you plan for your test. Please note that, per ProctorU, there will be penalties for students who miss their testing window. Technical trouble will not be an excuse for missing the window. Therefore, pay attention to all details within this guide, and all links included.

System Requirements: Please see the information below supplied by ProctorU for system requirements. If your computer does not have these capabilities, please consider borrowing a computer as you will still be required to complete the exam using the live proctor system with ProctorU. Please note that you will not be able to take your exam(s) in the Calvary University Library due to the activity that will be picked up in a public place.

In order to use ProctorU, you will need a high-speed internet connection, a webcam (internal or external), a Windows or Apple Operating System, and a government issued photo ID. ProctorU recommends that you visit <https://test-it-out.proctoru.com/> prior to your proctoring session to test your equipment. They recommend you click on the button that says “connect to a live person” to fully test out your equipment. If using Firefox, please make sure that you are using the current version of your Firefox browser and have downloaded the ProctorU extension available at <https://www.proctoru.com/firefox>.

Type	Minimum	Recommended	Calvary University Minimum
Web Camera	640×480 resolution	1280×720 resolution	1280×720 resolution
PC Users	Windows Vista	Windows 10 (10 S is not supported)	same
Mac Users	OS X 10.5 or higher	OS X 10.13 High Sierra	same
Internet Download Speed	.768 Mbps	1.5 Mbps	3 Mbps
Internet Upload Speed	.384 Mbps	1 Mbps	2 Mbps

RAM	1024 MB	2 GB	same
Ports	1935, 843, 80, 443, 61613, UDP/TCP	1935, 843, 80, 443, 61613, UDP/TCP	same

- Desktop computer or laptop (not a tablet, Chromebook or cell phone).
- Webcam and microphone (built-in or external) – test your webcam at <https://test.webrtc.org/>
- Connection to network with sufficient internet speed: at least 3 Mbps download speed and 2 Mbps upload – test internet speed at www.speedtest.net
- Operating systems: Windows Vista or newer, Mac OS X 10.5 – or newer
- Browser with pop-up blocker disabled: Google Chrome v39 or later, Mozilla Firefox v34 or later.

Additionally, please visit and review the test-taker resource center by going to <https://www.proctoru.com/proctoru-live-resource-center>. You should expect the startup process with the proctor to take about 10-15 minutes. However, this time will not affect your exam time. Please feel free to direct any questions to the student support team via the live chat within your account.

******If you have any questions or concerns, contact Proctor U’s technical support team 24/7 via their live chat support at <https://www.proctoru.com/contact-us>**

Costs for ProctorU exams are listed below and are payable to ProctorU at the time of the test. These costs assume that a student will schedule their exam at least 72 hours in advance of the exam start time:

- 60 minutes or less - \$8
- 61 – 120 minutes - \$10
- 121 – 180 minutes - \$12

For those not scheduling an exam at least 72 hours in advance, late scheduling charges are added in addition to the above fee structure. There are two options for late scheduling:

- “Take It Soon” allows a test to be scheduled less than 72 hours but more than 24 hours before the desired start time. This option includes an additional fee of \$8.00. (Total cost for a 60 minute exam scheduled as “Take It Soon” would be \$16.)
- “Take It Now” allows a test to be taken on-demand with no appointment needed. This option includes an additional fee of \$12.00. (Total cost for a 60 minute exam scheduled as “Take It Now” would be \$20.)

These options are for the convenience of the examinee. Any charges applicable to the examinee must be paid with a credit or debit card. The test taker will be required to enter payment information on a secure page connected to a third-party card processor. The page is encrypted and secure and ProctorU does not see or store any credit card data.

Examinees will be required to re-enter payment information each time new charges are incurred.