

**BIOL 3355: Toxicology**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Section 001: M/W 4:00-5:20**  
**PM Life Science Building 122**

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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. If you want to be taken seriously then please present yourself in such a manner. Be detailed and appropriate. Excellent communication skills can contribute to your success in academic and professional endeavors.

*Office Hours:* Wednesday 2:30 PM-3:30 PM in Central Library 212 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 won’t 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
- report current knowledge of a chosen toxin
- 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

*Blackboard:* Please check Blackboard regularly (elearn.uta.edu) as pertinent information will be provided there and often the answers to your questions may be found there.

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

*Day of an examination:* You will need a #2 pencil, a Scantron 882-E, 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. Rather, 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 have elected to take attendance at random but will not factor attendance into the grade. It is also an expectation that students be actively engaged while attending lecture by responding to questions, asking questions, participating in discussions, etc. Absences can affect your grade and learning outcomes as those who attend class tend to perform better than those who do not. You are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate if you miss class. Please be respectful of and extend courtesy to your classmates at all times.

*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 under the following circumstances with the necessary documentation provided.

- Death in the family (immediately family only), copy of death certificate
- Transportation accident, copy of the police report or insurance documents
- Illness, note from medical provider
- Extenuating circumstances as discussed with and determined by the instructor

*Grade Grievances:* Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog ([http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic\\_regulations.aspx#19](http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19)).

*Drop Policy:* Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

*Americans with Disabilities Act:* The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Don't hesitate to schedule a meeting with me as early as possible when the semester begins if you require an accommodation based on disability. I will do what I am able to accommodate you appropriately. It is your responsibility to communicate your needs to me.

*Title IX:* The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**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.

**Student Support Services:** 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, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Student Enrichment:** The following are activities you can participate in on campus which are valuable experiences outside of the classroom. Studies have shown students who are active on campus tend to perform better academically. These will better prepare you to both attain a position in the workforce or graduate school and excel at it. Feel free to schedule an appointment with me any time if you wish to know more.

- Student organizations <https://mavorgs.collegiatelink.net/>
- Undergraduate research (READ: creativity!)
- Service Learning <http://www.uta.edu/ccsl/>
- ACES (Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students- you can attend even if you aren't a presenter yourself) March each year <https://www.uta.edu/aces/>
- Work-study <http://www.uta.edu/hr/employment-services/snap-help-stu.php>
- Involvement with the Alumni Association <http://utaalumni.org/s/1379/start.aspx>
- Volunteering <http://www.uta.edu/leadership/serve/utavolunteers/index.php>
- Others

**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>.

*Student Feedback Survey:* At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

*Final Review Week:* A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

*Emergency Exit Procedures:* Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

*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.

*\*Important Dates:* In addition to the course schedule, the following dates should be noted.

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| • Holiday                | March 12-17 |
| • Last day to withdrawal | March 30    |
| • Last day of classes    | May 4       |

*Tentative Course Schedule:* will be posted to blackboard. 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

