

Course: Exploration of Forensic Toxicology and Medicine	Course Number: 2006
Department:	Emergency Medicine
Faculty Coordinator:	Stacey Hail, M.D.
Assistant Faculty Coordinators:	Jeff Van Dermark, M.D.
Hospital: (Location of rotation)	Parkland Memorial Hospital ED, varies, UTSW and off campus
Periods Offered:	Varies
Length:	2 weeks
Max # of Students:	1-2
First Day Contact:	Silvia Ramirez, MBA Educational Coordinator, Supervisor and first point of contact 214-648-3189
First Contact Time:	Established prior by email with Dr. Hail
First Day Location:	Main EM offices: E4.300 (reach by going through back elevators of library)
Prerequisites: Completion of all Core Clerkships	

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introduction to how medical deductive reasoning and the art of differential diagnosis are utilized in medicolegal cases. The 4th year student will be exposed to how medicine and toxicology assist in solving murder mysteries, the prosecution of drug dealers and “pill mill” doctors, and in the review of medical malpractice and other civil matters. The 4th year student will be exposed to physicians who interact closely with the legal system in supporting and investigating these civil and criminal cases as well as attorneys that also deal with civil and criminal matters. Schedule permitting, there may be opportunities to attend a deposition, trial or other court-related proceeding. The 4th year student may also have the opportunity to assist on active legal cases.

Goals	Objectives	Assessment methods (examples)
PATIENT CARE: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT		
Become familiar with elements of civil and criminal law. Learn basic legal terms that help a medical expert communicate with attorneys as well as the evolution of civil and criminal cases.	Attend lectures given by civil and criminal attorneys geared toward teaching physicians “Law 101.”	Take a quiz on basic legal terms. Ex: subpoena duces tecum, motion in limine, Daubert, Chapter 74 letters, charge vs. indictment vs. conviction vs. sentencing; etc.
MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:		
Appreciate how medical deductive reasoning and differential diagnosis help in cause of death determinations in drug overdose deaths.	Attend a round table session to work through the steps on a real medicolegal case and develop an opinion. Review articles in the medical literature that support or refute your opinion.	Participate in the session and develop your own “expert” opinion. Articulate your opinion to the instructor.
SYSTEMS BASED PRACTICE:		

Recognize the importance and role of forensic toxicology and medicine in legal cases as well as challenges and pitfalls in expert testimony.	Attend lectures and roundtable discussions given by a medical toxicology expert witness.	Give a 15-20 minute Power Point lecture on a forensic toxicology/medical topic of your choice. Ex: Usefulness of drug testing on hair; a controversial murder or medical malpractice case in history; the toxicological mistake in the Patricia Stallings case, etc.
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II. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. DIDACTIC:

One week on service in Toxicology rotation with 2nd week solely in Forensic Toxicology

Topic driven areas of forensic toxicology will take place in week one with emphasis on current and past forensic case management in week two

B. CLINICAL none

III. OVERVIEW OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance at main Toxicology conferences on Tuesdays in week 1 and 2

Active and enthusiastic participation in course materials

Review of required reading prior to day 1.

15 min oral presentation on narrow topic of student choice in forensic toxicology

IV. METHOD OF EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Pass/fail system through submission of above materials. Completion of course materials will be in reporting form through LMS and/or UGE MedHub.

V. RECOMMENDED READING: Above modules, websites and articles embedded in tables. Note login into the UTSW network and library website before accessing these materials.

1. Forensic Toxicology of Poisons
2. [Criminal Poisoning](#)
3. [Goldfrank's Toxicological Emergencies](#) selected chapters
4. Principles of Forensic Toxicology (Barry Levine) selected chapters