

## Course Information

Course Number: 3110  
Course Title: Introduction to Dentistry  
Section: Fall 2023  
Time: Thursday 3:00  
Location: Room 310  
Credit Hours: 1.0

## Instructor Details

Course Director: Eric Fox, RDH, MS  
Office: 136A  
Phone: 214-828-8319  
E-Mail: efox@tamu.edu  
Office Hours: As needed or by appointment

## Additional Participating Faculty

Carolyn Kerins, DDS	Poorya Jalali, DDS
Juliana Ryan, DDS	Anneta Bitouni, DDS
Jacqueline Plemons, DDS	John Wright, DDS
Marianela Gonzalez, DDS	Reginald Taylor, DDS
Shirley Lewis, DDS	Hui Liang, DDS
Kassandra Bowie, RDH	Vonica Chau, DDS

## Course Description

Introduction to dental hygiene as it relates to dental specialties. Guest lecturers will describe what their specialty encompasses and the dental hygienist's role in that field of dentistry.

## Course Prerequisites

None

## Special Course Designation

None

## Course Learning Outcomes

The material presented in this course is primarily foundational to supporting competencies as defined in Caruth School of Dental Hygiene's *Competencies for the Dental Hygienist*:

***Professional Identity***

- 2.2 Commit to self-assessment and lifelong learning in order to provide contemporary clinical care.
- 3.1 Prepare for career opportunities within health care, industry, education, research, and other roles as they evolve for the dental hygienist.
- 3.2 Advance and promote the values of the profession through leadership, service activities and affiliation with professional organizations.

***Community Involvement:***

- 5.2 Assess, plan, implement and evaluate community-based oral health programs.
- 5.3 Influence the public (consumer groups, businesses and government agencies) to support health care issues.
- 5.4 Use screening, referral and education to bring consumers into the health care delivery system.

***Assessment:***

- 6.6 Determine the need for referral to an appropriate health professional.

***Implementation:***

- 8.5 Provide dental hygiene services in a variety of settings.

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- A. List the main functions of each specialty area of dentistry.
- B. Describe the additional levels of education needed to practice within each specialty area.
- C. Understand the role of the dental hygienist within the dental specialty.
- D. Recognize the importance of each dental specialty and how the specialty contributes to total patient care.
- E. Analyze case studies and determine which dental specialty would best apply to each individual case when a referral is needed.

In addition to these general course objectives, each unit of study has its own specific set of objectives listed at the beginning of the corresponding power point presentation. Test questions for the mastery exams are designed to specifically test knowledge of these objectives.

**DENTAL HYGIENE**

- 1. List and describe the major branches associated with the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Associations' mission.
- 2. List and describe the roles of the dental hygienist.
- 3. Name the first dental hygiene program, location and time of that program as well as history associated with the profession.
- 4. Discuss the benefits of membership in professional dental hygiene organizations.
- 5. List current statistics/trends in dental hygiene.

**OPERATIVE DENTISTRY:**

1. Define Operative Dentistry; list and discuss the four primary goals of operative dentistry.
2. List the five classifications according to Black. Define the location of each.
3. Formulate and examine the responsibilities that you believe a dental hygienist would be able to perform in the specialty area of operative dentistry.
4. List types of restorative materials and their application.
5. List the primary causes of tooth destruction.

**PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY:**

1. Be able to define the specialty of Pediatric Dentistry, its goals and common practice settings.
2. Discuss when the first patient visit should occur, and the responsibilities of the caregiver for the infant and child.
3. Be familiar with behavior modification techniques and euphemisms that are recommended when working with pediatric patients.
4. List key points in developing trust that enhance the child, parent and practitioner relationship.
5. Formulate and examine the duties and responsibilities that you believe a hygienist would be able to perform in the specialty area of pediatric dentistry.

**PROSTHODONTICS:**

1. Describe the specialty and areas of Prosthodontics and the properties of the materials used.
2. Discuss the components of a fixed prosthesis, means of examination and home care procedures.
3. Recognize soft and hard tissue changes that can occur in a patient wearing a removable prosthesis.
4. Discuss the components of the removable prosthesis, examination and cleansing the prosthesis, patient instructions and home care.
5. Formulate and examine the responsibilities that you believe a hygienist would be able to perform in the specialty of Prosthodontics.

**ENDODONTICS:**

1. Describe the definition of Endodontics and scope of Endodontics.
2. Discuss basic concepts of etiology, evaluation, diagnostic testing and severity of conditions related to the pulp.
3. Recognize the difference between pulpotomy and pulpectomy treatments.
4. Discuss the temporary and permanent restorations of teeth undergoing or having completed

endodontic therapy.

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY:**

1. Define the scope and purpose of the specialty area of oral and maxillofacial surgery.
2. Understand the role of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in both dentistry and medicine.
3. Understand duties that you believe a hygienist would be able to perform in the specialty area of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY:**

1. Define Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the educational requirements and practice opportunities/locations and what an Oral and Maxillofacial pathologist does.
2. Explain why knowledge of general/systemic pathology is important.
3. What are some of the oral manifestations of pathology.
4. What role does pathology play for the practicing dental hygienist?

**PERIODONTICS:**

1. Define the specialty of Periodontics
2. List and describe the common procedures for care of periodontal patients and at what point surgery would be performed.
3. Discuss the role of the dental hygienist in periodontal therapy.
4. Define the scope of Periodontal procedures.

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY**

1. Define Oral and Maxillofacial radiology.
2. Discuss the educational requirements for the specialty.
3. Discuss the role of the dental hygienist in oral and maxillofacial radiology.
4. Discuss history and advances in intraoral radiography.
5. Discuss and review cephalometric radiography and analysis.
6. Discuss diagnostic imaging procedures for temporomandibular joint disorders, dental implants, and salivary gland dysfunction.

**DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Define the specialty and practice of Dental Public Health.
2. List essential dental public health activities.

3. Distinguish individual vs. community treatment approaches.
4. Appreciate opportunities in dental public health as alternatives to conventional practice.

**DDHA/TDHA**

1. List and describe the major branches associated with the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Associations' mission.
2. Discuss the benefits of ADHA membership
3. Describe the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association purpose and the role of students at TDHA Annual Session
4. Discuss the relationship between TDHA and the TSBDE

**Forensic Dentistry**

1. Discuss forensic dentistry history.
2. Recognize and describe identification methods utilized in forensic dentistry.
3. Explain what constitutes a mass fatality and be aware of federal, regional, and state response teams.
4. Discuss the various software used in forensic dentistry.
5. Describe various ways for the dental professional to become involved in forensic dentistry.

**ORTHODONTICS:**

1. Be familiar with the history and establishment of orthodontics.
2. Analyze the primary problems that contribute to malocclusion.
3. Describe the primary classification of occlusion according to Angle's classification.
4. Formulate and examine duties and responsibilities what you believe a hygienist would be able to perform in the specialty area of orthodontics.

## Textbook and/or Resource Materials

Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Wilkins, Esther M.  
11th ed. Williams & Wilkins, (or earlier version), optional.  
Learning Management Software <https://canvas.tamu.edu/>

## Grading Policy

### Grade Scale

A = 90.0-100

B = 80.0-89.99

C = 75-79.99

D = 70-74.99

F = <70

### **Grades including the final course grade will not be curved or rounded.**

The course director has the ability to adapt/modify the syllabus, as needed. The course director will provide written notice to all students in as advance as possible for any changes that may arise.

There are 3 examinations, with each being worth 30%. The last exam focuses on the last 4 lectures but also includes questions from the first 8 lectures. In addition, students must attend a dental hygiene professional society meeting and write a reflective paper to pass the course. The reflection paper is worth 10%.

### *Graded Attendance*

Texas A&M University views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. In the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene regular and punctual attendance is mandatory for scheduled or rescheduled classes, clinics and related activities/events. The course director will check attendance at the start of the class/activity. Students who are not present at that time will be marked absent.

For any absences (excused or unexcused), it will be the student's responsibility to review the lecture recordings for the class(es) missed. Additionally, the student must complete a make-up assignment(s) within 10 calendar days (including weekends) after returning to school. The make-up assignment will require the student to thoroughly answer the learning objectives for the class session(s) and define any listed terminology. The assignment must demonstrate the student has listened to the recording(s) and read the assigned reading. Make-up assignments may be typed or hand written, contain the title of the missed class session(s) and be sent via email within the 10-calendar-day deadline. **Failure to complete the make-up assignment(s) within this time frame will result in TWO points being deducted from student's final grade.**

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to remediate all absences (excused or unexcused) by the final exam or end of semester may result in an "F" for the course.

To review the comprehensive Texas A&M University student attendance rule, go <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Canvas:

Each student is encouraged to complete End of Course Surveys administered by the University. These are completely anonymous and optional but do aid faculty and administration greatly in their assessment and planning for future courses and program changes. We value your opinions and recommendations.

### Late Work Policy

The designation of excused or unexcused absence will be determined on an individual basis by the Program Director and Student Affairs.

### Course Schedule

<b>Day:</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Time: 3:00 PM</b>	
<b>August 17</b>		INTRODUCTION/ DENTAL HYGIENE	Prof. Eric Fox
<b>August 24</b>		PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	Dr. Kerins/McWhorter
<b>August 31</b>		OPERATIVE	Dr. Chau
<b>September 7</b>		PROSTHODONTICS	Dr. Ryan
<b>September 14</b>		<b>Examination [over lectures 1-4]</b>	
<b>September 21</b>		DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	Dr. Bitouni
<b>September 28</b>		PERIODONTICS	Dr. Plemons
<b>October 5</b>		ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY	Dr. Gonzalez
<b>October 12</b>		ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY	Dr. Wright
<b>October 19</b>		ENDODONTICS	Dr. Jalali
<b>October 26</b>		<b>Examination [over lectures 5-8]</b>	
<b>November 2</b>		ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY	Dr. Liang
<b>November 9</b>		ORTHODONTICS	Dr. Taylor
<b>November 16</b>		DDHA/TDHA	Kassandra Bowie, RDH
		<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
<b>November 30</b>		FORENSIC DENTISTRY	Dr. Lewis

**\*\*Final Exam first or second week of December\*\* (Final Exam is over all lecture material with a concentration on material since last examination)**

### Optional Course Information Items

#### Technology Support

Students are responsible for maintaining their devices and ensuring that they are in proper working order throughout the semester. This includes maintaining access to the college wireless network, access

to all accounts (both TAMU and TAMU Health) and keeping passwords up to date. Students are expected to keep their devices up to date in regard to patches and OS updates.

Division of IT

If the student experiences issues with an electronic device, wifi access, axiUm, Zoom, or user accounts, their first point of contact should be the Division of IT Central Help Desk or the local Division of IT at SOD. The Central Helpdesk provides 24-hour support.

Division of IT Central Help Desk Website: <a href="https://it.tamu.edu/help/">https://it.tamu.edu/help/</a> Phone: 1-979-845-8300 Email: <a href="mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu">helpdesk@tamu.edu</a>	SOD Local Division of IT Office Room: 519 Phone: 214-828-8248
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COD Instructional Design Team

For electronic exam support or problems concerning other academic technology, such as the LMS (Canvas), ExamSoft, or Examplify, students should contact the Instructional Design team.

Room: 516 through Academic Affairs

Carmina Castro	<a href="mailto:ccastro@tamu.edu">ccastro@tamu.edu</a>	(214-828-8316)
Jeff Lowry	<a href="mailto:lowryj1@tamu.edu">lowryj1@tamu.edu</a>	(214-828-8243)

## University Policies

### Attendance Policy

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

**Attendance Policy:**

Texas A&M University views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. In the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene regular and punctual attendance is mandatory for scheduled or rescheduled classes, clinics and related activities/events. The course director will check attendance at the start of the class/activity. Students who are not present at that time will be marked absent.

**IMPORTANT:** All absences must be reported to Pam Hines by **PHONE at 214-828-8340** and must be received **prior** to the beginning of the class/activity.

**Excused Absences**

**Illnesses or emergencies:** It is understood that absences due to severe or contagious illness, injuries or emergencies may occur. An absence due to illness may require a medical confirmation note from a student’s medical provider. For injuries or illnesses that require a student to be absent from class for three or more business days, a note from his or her medical provider is mandatory. If a student has frequent sick days, the program director may require a medical provider’s note for each absence. **Note:** An absence for a non-acute medical service does not constitute an excused absence.



**Religious holy day:** A student whose absence is excused under or the observance of religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within 3 days after the absence. **If the student fails to schedule and complete the exam or assignment within three days, a grade of zero will be given.**

For additional information on excused absences, see Texas A&M Student Rule 7.1 at <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Tardiness and non-emergent appointments (illnesses not considered severe or contagious) scheduled during class time will be considered an unexcused absence. Quizzes and exams start at the beginning of class time. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to take the quiz/exam. Since classroom learning applies directly to patient care, sleeping in class is considered an unexcused absence and is subject to the remediation policy. **Students with unexcused absences or late arrivals will have TWO points deducted from their final course grade. No make-up quiz/test will be given** if an absence is unexcused on a test day. Examinations will not be administered in advance for a planned/anticipated unexcused absence.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

### **General Information**

The designation of excused or unexcused absence will be determined on an individual basis by the Program Director and Student Affairs.

### **Virtual Classroom Expectations and Etiquette**

Classes may be held in a virtual setting this semester. Class attendance is mandatory, and failure to attend the virtual sessions will be subject to the above absence policy. Students are required to enter the virtual classrooms with the audio muted. Video must be activated at the beginning of the class session and remain on until the session concludes. Unless the instructor provides other directions, questions should be posted through the virtual chat/discussion board.

During class, students are expected to be alert, engaged, and sitting upright in a well-lit environment that allows their faces to be clearly visible. Students should attempt to minimize extraneous interruptions from other household members, including pets. Questions or concerns about the use of virtual meeting technology and/or accessibility should be presented to Jeff Lowry or Carmina Castro.

**To review the comprehensive Texas A&M University student attendance rule, go <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.**

## Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

## Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

### **Texas A&M School of Dentistry**

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, or your Program Director, for guidance.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

### **Texas A&M School of Dentistry**

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Office for Academic Affairs in the Administration Building Room 514 or at (214)-828-8978 or [ajwilson@tamu.edu](mailto:ajwilson@tamu.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

## Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

### **Texas A&M School of Dentistry**

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University’s [Title IX webpage](#). School of Dentistry students can contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, Security at 214-828-8335, their Program Director, or their Department Head to report an incident.

## Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus

### **Texas A&M School of Dentistry**

Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182 or Student Affairs at 214-828-8210 for a referral to a local counselor. These counseling sessions are private and confidential, as are any referral requests.

## Campus-Specific Policies

Statement on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items may do so by going to [howdy.tamu.edu](http://howdy.tamu.edu) and clicking on the "Directory Hold Information" link in the Student Records channel on the MyRecord tab. The complete [FERPA Notice to Students](#) and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage.

Items that can never be identified as public information are a student's social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class.

Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location and medical residence specialization.

## School and Department Policies

School and departmental units may establish their own policies and minimum syllabus requirements. As long as these policies and requirements do not contradict the university level requirements, colleges and departments can add them in this section. Please remove this section if not needed.

**Take form to meeting, have it signed at check-in and take notes on the back.**

Dallas Dental Hygienists' Association Meeting at the New York Life building  
12201 Merit Dr. Dallas 75251

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of DDHS representative

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address the following in a typed double spaced paper (no more than 300 words); answer all questions in the order below.**

**Business meeting** - Your impression of the business meeting (15 points total):

Any community opportunities addressed? What were they? (5)

Other pertinent items discussed? (5)

How did the officers engage the audience to keep their attention? (5)

**Continuing Education presentation** - Continuing Education (CE) presentation (50 points total):

Overview of topic - Tell me what the CE speaker's talk was about. (30 points)

What is the value of this topic to the profession of dental hygiene? (20 points)

**Being a part of your profession-** Reflect on your experience (20 points total):

What is the value of belonging to your professional organization? (10 points)

What types of activities of the organization do you see yourself being involved in? (10 points)

**Spelling, grammar, clarity, etc.** (15 points)

**Attach your paper to this form and turn in by the 10th school day after the meeting you attended which should be a Thursday.**

<b>Grading Rubric for Reflection Paper</b>					
<b>Professional Society Meeting</b>					
	<b>0 pts</b>	<b>Poor 5 pts</b>	<b>Fair 10 pts</b>	<b>Good 15 pts</b>	
<b>Business Meeting</b>  1) Community opportunities  2) Other Pertinent items  3) Engagement of audience	<input type="radio"/> Section not addressed	<input type="radio"/> 1 of 3 items addressed	<input type="radio"/> 2 of 3 items addressed	<input type="radio"/> 3 of 3 items addressed	<b>/15</b>
<b>Spelling, Grammar, Clarity, etc</b>	<input type="radio"/> Word count >300	<input type="radio"/> Multiple errors spelling, grammar, and clarity	<input type="radio"/> Some errors in grammar, grammar, and clarity	<input type="radio"/> Few to no errors in grammar, spelling, and clarity	<b>/15</b>
	<b>0 pts</b>	<b>Poor 25 pts</b>	<b>Fair 40 pts</b>	<b>Good 50 pts</b>	
<b>Continuing Education</b>  1) Overview of Topic  2) Value of topic to DH profession	<input type="radio"/> Section not addressed	<input type="radio"/> 1 of 2 items addressed <input type="radio"/> Limited discussion of CE speaker's presentation and the value of the speakers' topic to the DH profession	<input type="radio"/> 2 of 2 items addressed <input type="radio"/> Average discussion of CE speaker's presentation and the value of the speakers' topic to the DH profession	<input type="radio"/> 2 of 2 items addressed <input type="radio"/> Thorough discussion of CE speaker's presentation and the value of the speakers' topic to the DH profession	<b>/50</b>
		<b>Poor 0 pts</b>	<b>Fair 15 pts</b>	<b>Good 20 pts</b>	
<b>Being a Part of Your Profession</b>  1) Value of belonging to professional organization  2) Types of activities you see yourself involved in		<input type="radio"/> Section not addressed	<input type="radio"/> 1 of 2 items discussed	<input type="radio"/> 2 of 2 items discussed	<b>/20</b>

