

Forensic Science 2016-17 Syllabus

Teacher: Ms. Ward

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Location: 1335/1337 (lab)

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I. Course Description/Overview:

This course covers the fundamental concepts of forensic science. Forensic science is the application of science to the law. Students will learn an introduction and history of the discipline, how to collect various pieces of evidence, analyzing and evaluating evidence at crime scenes, and how to work a crime scene. The laboratory component of the class will include various crime scene simulations, along with a lab practical for each forensic science technique.

Main topics of the course will include such things as hair and fiber analysis, fingerprint analysis, forensic entomology, among others. Students will be expected to work mock crime scenes as if they were forensic scientists in the field. This includes learning to sketch and document scenes, along with writing up final analysis of their findings

Upon completion of the class, students should be able to use proper lab mechanics to evaluate evidence and compare known samples to unknown criminal evidence.

Pre-requisites

Students must have credit in chemistry, credit in biology with a grade of C or better. Credit in Algebra I is required. Credit in Algebra II is preferred.

II. Course Content:

History of Forensics and Careers in Forensics

Observation and Crime Scene Investigation

Fingerprints

Hair and Fiber evidence

Blood Pattern Analysis

Career in forensic science

DNA Analysis

Entomology

Two crime scene projects

- Content and schedule may be altered depending on teacher discretion and weather

III. Classroom Rules:

On a daily basis the following rules will be followed in the classroom. When it is a lab day, the safety contract will also be enforced:

Eating and Drinking in the Classroom:

Please do NOT bring food or drinks (except for water) into the classroom during class periods. Students who arrive in the classroom with open food and/or drink

will be asked to take it back to their lockers or dispose of it in the trash can (NOT THE SINKS!) If the sinks become trashed, classes will get the opportunity to clean them out.

Leaving the Classroom:

As the teacher is legally responsible for all students during class, no student is to leave the classroom without permission once class has started. If an emergency arises there is a sign out sheet on the door. Students shall sign out when they leave and sign back in when they return.

Electronic Devices:

Adhere to the LHS electronic device policy in your planner handbook

IV. **Activities:**

A typical week in the forensic science classroom will consist of learning new material nearly every day. The style of the class is usually notes and/or activities, some time to practice what has been taught, and then a short time at the end to start the homework that evening or to ask any questions that a student might have. Each week there will be a quiz on Thursday over the material covered from the time of the last quiz. In addition, lab work will take place often to learn new skills.

VII. **Term Weights:**

The course is one semester and weighted 80%

quizzes/activities - 40%

Labs/crime scene analysis (different than an activity, on a larger scale and builds on previous scenes) - 40%

Homework/Participation for group activities-20%

Final exam is 20% and has 3 components

Written test (multiple choice and essay) -70%,

final crime scene analysis-15%

Oral presentation/visual aid for crime scene presentation-15%

Grading scale

90-92%	A-	93-100%	A		
80-82%	B-	83-86	B	87-89%	B+
70-72%	C-	73-76	C	77-79	C+
60-62%	D-	63-66	D	67-69	D+
59% and below –fail.					

I have read and agree to the policies and procedures outline in the Forensic Science syllabus for the 2016-17 school year. I understand that violation of any of the syllabus will leave be liable to consequences.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____