

Forensic Science Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR:

Mr. Tom Thomas
Room #: 2103
Office phone #: (928) 502-5400 ext.5463
Office hours: 7:00-7:25 AM before school
2:30-3:30 PM after school
7:30-8:15 PM planning period and by appointment

TEXTBOOK: Criminalistics, an Introduction to Forensic Science, by Richard Saferstein

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Forensic Science is a course that takes all the sciences and uses their foundations to solve crimes. It is the application of science to the law. Areas being covered will be hair, soil, fiber analysis, serology, DNA fingerprinting, basic fingerprinting, crime scene investigation and other areas. The lab is heavily lab based (40-50% of class time). **Forensic science can't be truly taught with a G or PG rating. This isn't gore curriculum but the course does deals with some mature subject matter, so please be aware of this.**

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:

PENCIL AND PAPER are to accompany the student to class every day. It is strongly recommended that the student keep notes, assignments, lab, papers, tests and any other pertinent information in a three-ring binder. NO red ink, or red ink light colors of pens, fluorescent, Highlight colors or colors that pass through papers for assignments will be accepted. You will be asked to redo the paper and if it persists the paper will be thrown out. Please check and use the website the school has provided to view grades and the teacher website **through the school website** pertinent information. Purchasing a box of disposable gloves should be purchased for some labs and projects.

POLICIES:

ALL SCHOOL POLICIES as outlined in the KOFA HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK will be adhered to in class. Teacher/student conferences, Detentions, Parents notified, Counselors notified and referrals are among the consequences and the rest is up to teacher discretion. The instructor will counsel students with 59% or below & an attempt to notify parents will be made. Students grade posted once per week and instructor will attempt to notify parents with a progress report at least once for the first two six weeks. Student brings back progress report with parent signature. This progress report will be for a grade. An attempt to call parents will be made about grades, absences and discipline problems. Students are expected to be courteous, polite, show respect to all adults, fellow classmates and property in classroom. Students will be cooperative at all times with the teacher and each other. No food or drink in classroom unless it is part of a lesson the instructor is implementing during class. Passes outside classroom use the student Hand book or an appropriate pass and ID.

TARDIES:

1st tardy: teacher warning
2nd tardy: parent notified
3rd tardy: one-hour detention and parent notified
4th tardy and beyond: Referral to administrator

GRADING: The "GRADING SCALE" will be as follows:

A=90-100% B= 80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59-below

The semester grade will be determined as follows:

1st six weeks=30% total semester grade
2nd six weeks=30% total semester grade
3rd six weeks=25% total semester grade
Final exam= 15% total semester grade

The six-week grade will be determined by the total number of points earned from the assignments turned in by the students during that particular grading period. Each semester students will have a comprehensive final exam over the entire semester.

ASSIGNMENTS:

These include abstracts of cases studies, labs, reports, readings, mock trial, notes, projects, questions, videos and other assignments that are pertinent to forensic science.

All assignments will be turned in on or before the designated due date. No late assignments accepted unless cleared by the instructor and extenuating circumstances.

Assignments with no name will be thrown away if owner is not found. Students who are absent will be allowed to make up work according to the "MAKE -UP WORK" section in the Student Hand Book.

CHEATING AND PLAGARISM:

Copying on tests, quizzes, labs and other assignments will not be allowed. Student is expected to do their own work. Consequences included 0's on assignments, detentions, referrals, parent notification if problem persists and depending on the type of assignment and how important it is. Suspension from school and may result in receiving "NO CREDIT" for the course.

LABS:

During labs students will be expected to conduct themselves as student research scientists. NO MISCONDUCT will be allowed. Students not conducting themselves in the correct manner will be asked to sit at their seats and will receive no credit for the lab exercise. Parents will be notified and a referral sent depending on the seriousness of the problem. If a student breaks something by accident or on purpose, they will pay for it.

PROJECTS:

Students will have two crime scene projects per year; one students will plan and solve and one the teacher sets up and students solve, one power point project this year, outside readings and others for each semester.

TESTS:

There will be at least one test for each unit and it will consist of some objective, short answer and essay questions. Various quizzes will be given during the school year and some lab quizzes and tests. There may be pop quizzes.

FINAL EXAM:

The final semester exam is worth 15% of student's grade. This will consist of a comprehensive final exam that will cover all chapters and information that was covered at the end of each semester.

NOTE: Syllabus is subject to change where needed.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

FIRST SEMESTER:

Lab safety, the law, historical perspectives, civil vs. criminal law etc, the crime scene, fingerprints, DNA analysis, drug analysis, hair analysis and crime scene

SECOND SEMESTER:

Document analysis, fiber analysis, firearms, tool marks, impressions, mock trial , power point presentation on forensic science topic, serology and blood spatter and crime scene project

By signing below I certify that I have read and understand this syllabus.

DATE _____

STUDENT

PARENT/GUARDIAN

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS

CELL PHONE OR HOME PHONE