Forensic Science Course Syllabus

2012- 2013
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Office Hours:  11:45 am – 12:40 pm
I can occasionally be reached from 7:40 am – 8:00 am

Course Outline
Forensic Science is a basic introduction course to Criminalistics. The main topics to be covered will include, but are not limited to analysis of physical evidence, forensic toxicology and serology, trace evidence (e.g. hair, fiber, metal, paint, soil), fire investigation, explosives, fingerprinting, tool marks and firearms, autopsy, and document examination.

Class will be comprised of lecture, lab procedures, practice problems (to reinforce presented material) and review. Tests may be given after each unit has been covered. Quizzes will be given and will be both announced and unannounced. Lab notebooks and homework will be graded on effort and correctness.

Prerequisites
Students must have completed either Chemistry I or Biology I upon entering the class. Students must also be a Junior or Senior.

Students should be able to:
⇒ Investigate phenomena using the scientific method
⇒ Basic knowledge of Chemistry and/or Biology
⇒ Mathematically manipulate an equation to solve for an unknown
⇒ Know the basics of the periodic chart

Course Goals
The course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of Forensic Science. Upon completion of the course students should have a basic understanding of the functions of a criminalistics unit, the different types of materials collected for evidence and how to process those materials, and the responsibilities of the departments of a forensic science unit, and some of the most famous cases forensics has solved.

Text
Forensic Science: An Introduction  Saferstein, Richard. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008,
ISBN 0-13-196141-1  Cost: $87.00

Materials Needed
⇒ Three-ring notebook and paper
⇒ Bound Lab Notebook (composition notebook)
⇒ Calculator – basic scientific (with or without graphing capability)
⇒ One (1) packages of index cards (approximately 150 cards)
⇒ Black/Blue ink pen or pencil
⇒ 4 -5 plastic sheet protectors
⇒ Box of Ziploc baggies
⇒ Ruler with both English and Metric Units
⇒ 1 Roll of Scotch Tape
Laboratory Procedures
Proper laboratory safety and procedures will be discussed upon the beginning of the laboratory portion of the class. A safety contract must be completed by both the student and parent before participation in the first lab. If a student is unable to follow these guidelines, the following will result:

a.) 1st offense – Depending on severity – a warning.
b.) 2nd offense – Student will be dismissed temporarily from the lab. The student will read the safety procedure manual and write a brief statement as to why they should not violate the particular procedure.
c.) 3rd offense – Student will be dismissed from the lab and receive a grade of zero.

Note: The student may be sent to the office at any time for administrative discipline if their behavior could injure participants in the laboratory.

Laboratory Policy
Food and drinks are strictly prohibited during the laboratory exercises. This includes but is not limited to gum, hard candy, suckers, etc. Possessing any one of these during a laboratory exercise will result in being removed from the exercise and a grade of zero will be assigned. Due to the fact you will be operating in a laboratory setting, there will be additional clothing/shoe restrictions. These restrictions will not require you to purchase any new clothing. Remember, these policies are solely for your safety and for your classmate’s safety.

Grading Scale
Students will be graded based on the school’s present system. This scale can be found in the School Policy/Procedures Handbook.

The following content will be evaluated. These percentages are subject to change depending upon the material covered.

- 30% Tests
- 20% Homework (effort and correctness)
- 15% Lab Notebook (effort and neatness)
- 20% Laboratory Procedures
- 15% Quizzes

If you are absent missed work will need to be completed before school or during a time when you are a student aide. It is your responsibility to see me about make up work before school, not during class.
This is to certify that I have read the syllabus and am aware of the laboratory policy, grading policy and make up policy. This is also to certify that my parent/guardian has read the course syllabus and is aware of the instructor's phone number, office hours, e-mail address, laboratory policy, grading policy and make up policy.

Parents/Guardians please feel free to contact me at any time about concerns.

Parent/Guardian ___________________________ Date __________

Student ___________________________ Date __________

Teacher Use Only

Received ___________________________