Forensic Science Studies

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**Forensic Science Course Description:**

Forensic science is intended to enhance a student’s interest in science by incorporating forensic knowledge into lab experiments involving mysteries. Students will also improve their ability to give clear concise answers to questions. They will learn useful problem solving and critical and thinking skills by applying science concepts to solving real world problems. Students will expand their critical and logical thinking about relationships between real science and explanations. Students will be asked to provide scientific arguments to support their theories.

**Application:**

Forensics is the application of scientific methods to those criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. This course will cover the topics listed below. Material may be in the form of lecture and reading material, laboratory or field exercise, guest speakers, and video presentations. **NO** human body products, firearms, or street drugs will be available to students.

**EXPECTATIONS:** AS A GOOD FORENSIC SCIENTIST AND MEMBER OF THIS CLASS, STUDENTS WILL:

* Show respect to the teacher, fellow classmates, and one’s self.
* Be prepared, productive, and give their best effort every day.
* Follow directions, classroom policies, and procedures.
* Promote the learning, safety, and respect of others and one’s self.

**Grading:**

Grades will be determined as follows:

Tests

Labs

Projects/quizzes/homework/class work

Exam – 20%

**Textbook Author Publisher Year**

Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigations Anthony J Bertino South-Western, Cengage 2012

**Course Expectations:**

**Unit 1: Introduction to Forensics, the Rules of Evidence, and Observation Skills** Chapter 1

**Unit 2: Crime Scene Searching and Sketching; Reasoning Skills (approximately 3 weeks)** Chapter 2

**Unit 3: Print Analysis (approximately 3 weeks)** Chapter 6, plus supplemental reading

**Unit 4: Blood and Blood Spatter (approximately 3 weeks)** Chapter 8 plus supplemental reading

**Unit 5: Anthropology and Odontology (approximately 3 ½ weeks)** Chapter 13

**Unit 6: Document Analysis (approximately 2 weeks)** Chapter 10

**Unit 7: Trace Evidence (approximately 2weeks)** Chapters 3, 4, 12, and 14

**Unit 8: DNA (approximately 2 weeks)** Chapter 7

**Unit 9: Chemistry, Toxicology and Drugs (approximately 2 weeks)** Chapter 13

**Unit 10: Pathology (approximately 2 weeks)** Chapter 7

**Unit 11: Firearms, Ballistics, Fire, and Explosives (approximately 2 weeks)**

**Unit 12: Forensic Profiling (approximately 1 weeks)** supplemental text

**MATERIALS:**

* **Notebook Three-ring notebook with dividers :** All work is expected to be kept in the three-ring binder and should be brought to class **every day.** It is to the student’s advantage to keep all materials in the notebook, as occasional open-notebook quizzes will be given. It is suggested that the dividers be used for each unit. See Units below.
* One box of colored pencils Lined paper pencils and black or blue ink pens
* 1G flash drive

**PROCEDURES & POLICIES:**

* **Turning in Work:** Completed assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the day it is due unless specified otherwise. Assignments not submitted when the teacher is finished collecting them will be considered late and therefore not accepted without prior arrangements. There will be a container specified in class for all assignments.
* **Late Work:** Partial credit may be given for incomplete work that is turned in on the due date, or work that is completed and turned in late. When doing group work, it is important that all members of the group have copies of all parts of the project and/or data for a lab/field assignment.
* **Make-up work** =***student’s responsibility.***
1. All assignments given prior to the absence will be due upon arrival back to class. Students are allowed two (2) days for each absence not counting the day of return to turn in make-up work that was assigned during the absence.
2. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the make-up work from the folders near the front door immediately following the absence so that this deadline can be met, AND it is the student’s work to obtain the assignments missed at a time convenient to the teacher.
3. Hopefully we will have email up & running soon so you can schedule your makeup time **PRIOR** to your return.
4. There **WILL BE** Forensic Science ER times scheduled only as needed.
5. **If a test or quiz is missed, students must communicate with the teacher regarding his or her plan for making it up.** However, if a test or quiz is announced prior to the student’s absence, the student may be required to take the test or quiz in class on the first day of return to school.
6. Work due the day of an excused absence is due the day student returns to school for full credit.
* **Tardiness:** Students late to class will be marked tardy unless the teacher is given an official pass by the student.
* **Passes:** **YOU MUST USE YOUR AGENDA.** Students will not be allowed to leave class without a pass signed by the teacher. Students should choose an appropriate and considerate time to request passes in order to maximize instruction time. Students are expected to use the restroom between classes. Therefore, restroom use during c lass, especially during the first 10 minutes, will be strictly limited.
* **School Rules:**
	+ Cell phones/iPods/other electronics:  **Instruction time is important. There will be time we use electronic devices for data gathering and analysis. However, HHS rules will apply for non academic use.**
	+ Gum, food, drink, hats, head sets, playing cards, hairbrushes, makeup, lotion: NONE
	+ Dress Code: Adherence to school board policy regarding dress code is expected.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:**

* The management of classroom behavior will be handled in a fair and consistent manner. Consequences for failing to adhere to expectations and/or policies will be dealt with in a variety of ways. They include, but are not limited to:
	+ Non-verbal warning
	+ Verbal waning and/or student-teacher conferences
	+ Seat change
	+ Phone call home/parent conference
	+ Detention, written referral, discipline form or other discipline action
	+ Other appropriate action
* Possible rewards for contribution positively and demonstrating their best effort include:
	+ Positive student-teacher conference
	+ Surprise call home for good progress or success in the classroom
	+ Opportunity for extra credit if desired
	+ An outstanding participation/citizenship grade
	+ Turn-in-a-homework-assignment-one-day-late pass
* Laboratory and field safety will be strictly observed.
* **NOTE: Field activities are equivalent of laboratory experiences and will be graded. Safety is paramount in any laboratory and/or field experience. Unsafe lab or field conduct will not be tolerated. Any such actions will escalate the disciplinary cycle of consequences.**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** The purpose of extra credit in this class is to provide opportunity for improvement for those on the edge of the grade that they desire. Therefore, there must be reason for the student to be given this opportunity. Students eligible for this privilege should have attended class regularly, completed nearly all assignments, taken all assessments, and contributed in a positive manner to the class. **Please read the following extra credit stipulations before embarking on your extra credit endeavor:**

 Extra credit:

1. May be allowed ONLY if the student has completed ALL work and taken ALL assessments.
2. May not exceed 3% of final grade per quarter.
3. Must be turned in NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK before the end of the quarter.
4. Value will depend on the amount of effort the student invests into it.

Possible types of extra credit:

1. Research an issue related to main topics this quarter or related scientific issue to produce a presentation, research paper, or exceptional visual display.
2. Compile these findings into an exceptional display to create an “update on Environmental issues” for fellow students.
3. Other ideas? Before starting, students must propose their ideas to the teacher so that they may approve it first.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students are expected to maintain academic honesty throughout the course. A ZERO will be given on any assignment in which the student is found cheating, copying, or allowing others to copy his or her own work (regardless of whether the assignment is a group activity or not). Additionally, plagiarism on written work (papers, projects, etc.) and cheating of any kind during tests or quizzes will not be tolerated and a ZERO will be given on the assessment, and may be potentially followed by other consequences.

**CONTACTING Mr. Smith:**

Throughout the course, the class website and calendar will be used to post announcements, handouts, and other important information. The website is: <http://www2.hoover.k12.al.us/schools/hhs/faculty/nsmith>.

 Smith email = nsmith@hoover.k12.al.us (quickest way to contact me) or voicemail = 205-439-1200