

Forensics Syllabus 2017 - 2018
Ms. Renee Yafuso & Ms. Melissa Luna
Rm. E 202 Rm. E 211

Welcome to Forensic Science! This is a hands-on class where students will gain experience in investigative techniques used by real forensic investigators. Regular and on-time attendance is essential for students to be successful in this class. Many of the lab investigations are performed over a series of days or weeks. Due to the amount of work that is involved and the use of perishable materials, most of the labs cannot be made-up. The pre-requisites for this class are a passing grade (C or above) in both Biology and Chemistry. Students may take the Chemistry class at the same time. The laboratory experience in both of these pre-requisite science classes is necessary for a student taking Forensic Science. We are looking forward to getting to know all of the students and working together with you this year. Please feel free to contact your student's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Thank you, Ms. Yafuso and Ms. Luna

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Office hours: Periods 3rd and 7th, before and after school. CLOSED during LUNCH.

Objectives: Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the science and content of Forensic Science in a safe, engaging and interactive laboratory environment.

Supplies: Each student is expected to be prepared for class with the following supplies:
1" Three-ring binder College-ruled notebook paper Pencils (#2)

Classroom Expectations/Rules:

1. The classroom will be a safe environment for all students.
2. Students must come to class on time and prepared to learn.
3. All **HATS** will be removed upon entering the classroom
4. Students are responsible for notifying the teacher of an impending absence or after an absence to obtain missing assignment. This is NOT to be done during a regular class period.
5. **FOOD** or **DRINKS** at specified times.
6. Cell phones should be OFF during class – if a student is using a cell phone during instructional time it will be taken and sent to your building office – **NO EXCEPTIONS**
7. **HONESTY** is always the best policy – no cheating, copying another's work or plagiarism.

Grading Policy:

- Students will earn grades per assignment, quarter, semester and year based on a percentage of points earned. Each assignment given in class will have a point value ranging from 5 -200 points, depending on the skill, difficulty and content level of the assignment.
- Final semester grades will be determined by taking into account the percentage grade a student has earned through class work, projects and hands-on labs, scores on quizzes & exams and their presentation scores for each quarter's summative project and presentation.
- Quarters 1 – 3 all have a cumulative research project due. This is a mandatory assignment and students that do not COMPLETE and PASS the projects may fail

the semester. If the quarter 1 & 2 projects are not completed the student will earn an “F” for the semester and will be asked to drop the class.

- Students with an excused absence are excused from the day’s work. Tardies, truancies or other “personal” or “unexcused” absences will be treated the same and no work will be able to be made up.

Absences/Late Work/Re-do/Re-take Policy:

- a. Work missed due to an excused absence can always be made up. (* lab exception)
- b. Remember to check the teacher website for work on the days missed.
- c. Late work will be accepted. It must be in no later than a week after it was first assigned or within a week of the student’s return to class. Work handed in 2 weeks late or more can only receive 50% credit at most. Late projects will have 10% deducted for each calendar day that it is late.
- d. Test re-takes (due to an absence) must be completed within 1 week of the students’ return to class.
- e. * Labs may not be able to be made-up but a suitable, alternate assignment will be given – this is for excused absences only.

Binder: Students will be expected to take notes and keep all of the handouts for the unit we are currently working in. The binder must be neat and organized. Students may use a large binder for multiple classes as long as there is a specific section for Forensics.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy: Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating (this includes coping an assignment/test OR allowing another to copy your work) BOTH students will receive a ZERO for that test/assignment. This will not be able to be made up. A parent meeting will be required for this offense.

Behavior Expectations: Forensics is an elective class for juniors and seniors. Students choose this elective based on their interest in the sciences, forensics, and a student planning on majoring in a science at college or pursuing a career in the field. The pre-requisite classes are required, no exceptions. The class moves at a swift pace and students are expected to be in class, on-time every day. Excessive absences or tardies may result in a failing grade.

Parents/Guardians; Thank you in advance for your cooperation and please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to meeting you all and working with you to make your student’s year productive and successful. Renee Yafuso and Melissa Luna

Please sign and return to class – this is the first grade in the gradebook.

Student’s name (print): _____ Period: _____

Student’s signature: _____

Parent/guardian email: _____ Phone # _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____