

Forensic Science

Course Syllabus



Instructor Information

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Course Description

Forensic Science

1 semester (Spring)

1 credit

Grade 10-12

This course examines the principals, theories and practices of forensic science utilized within the law enforcement community and the American legal system. Forensic science is the study and application of science to the process of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. Students will gain a basic understanding of the scientific and analytical approach to determining the value of evidence as it relates to the court of law.

Curricular Information

Required Reading: Scientific articles and laboratory instructions will be provided in class.

Supplies Required for this Course:

1 subject spiral notebook

Pencils and pens, colored pencils and highlighters

Ruler

Shoebox

Graph paper, ruled paper

Modeling and building materials

Calculator

Latex Gloves

Daily Time and Effort Expectations:

Students will be required to finish and turn in all assignments on time, or no credit will be given. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the reading for the class. Check grades on Tyler regularly, and study for tests/quizzes. Since we have a four day week here at STEM, attendance is very important. It is not always possible to make up labs due to absences. If the absence is excused, students shall have the ability to make up missed work at the rate of one day per day missed.

Notebook Checks:

The notebooks are for organizing materials for your reference. We will be using the notebook throughout the course. The notebook is not graded for class.

Suggestions for Success:

The following are suggestions to help you to maintain or improve your grade in symposium.

1. Show up on time to class EVERY DAY. Tardies and absences contribute to lost learning experiences that cannot be recovered just by making up assignments.
2. Bring all required materials and a good attitude.
3. Keep up from the get go. It is extremely difficult to get out of a hole later on.
4. Keep your handouts, lecture notes, and study questions organized in a notebook.

Google Classroom:

Google classroom will be used primarily as a resource. Schedules for each unit will be found there that are hyperlinked to source material. There may be a few assignments completed online, but most work will be done on paper. A printable calendar will be provided for every unit. Please feel free to print it out to review due dates and upcoming tests, projects, and quizzes.

Course Evaluation:

The percentage breakdown for evaluation will be as follows:

Skills Practice	35%
Includes, but not limited to: Classwork, some labs (demonstrations), and homework	
Assessments	50%
Includes, but not limited to: Tests, quizzes, projects, and formal labs	
Cumulative Final Project or Exam:	15%

Classroom Policies and Expectations:

Students are expected to adhere to the classroom rules set by the teacher in their assigned classroom or grade level, as well as to set the example for others in accordance with the North Idaho STEM Charter Academy Student Handbook. Professional appearance and behavior should be demonstrated at all times by students serving in this role. Assigned mentor teacher(s) will include observations about appearance and behavior in their evaluations.

Course Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s) Covered</u>	<u>Labs/Projects</u>
1	Introduction and the History and Practice of Forensic Science	Forensic Professions Poster
2	Eyewitnesses and Types of Crime and the Law	The Disappearance of Helle Grafts
3	Locard's Exchange Principle and Trial Processes	Comic Strip of the Exchange Principle
4	Fingerprints	Sticky Fingers Lab
5	Fingerprint Analysis	Family Fingerprint Project
6	Trace Evidence	Hair Analysis Lab
7	Other Types of Trace Evidence	Soils Lab
8	Blood Evidence	Blood Typing Laboratory
9	Blood Spatter Analysis	Analyzing the Effect of Height and Surface Composition on Blood Spatter Evidence
10	Blood Evidence	Point of Origin Exercise
11	Ballistics	Ballistics Evidence Activity
12	Ballistics Trajectory	George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin Case Study
13	Ballistics Trajectory	The Shooting of JFK Case Study
14	Manner of Death	Calculating Time of Death Using Rigor
15	Autopsy	Pickle Autopsy Lab
16	Manner of Death	Cereal Killer Project
17	Final Project Work	Crime Scene in a Box
18	Forensic Anthropology	Identifying Bones Determining Height from Skeletal Evidence

Grading Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Proficiency descriptors</i>
A+	97-100	Assignments are fully completed in a timely manner and of excellent quality; the student shows superior level of initiative and seeks to <u>go beyond the minimum requirements</u> . Errors are rare or nonexistent.
A	93-96	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Assignments are fully completed in a timely manner and typically of above average quality; the student is conscientious and meets all requirements with few errors.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Assignments are generally complete (met minimum requirements) and of good quality; assigned tasks have occasional errors.
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Assignments are generally incomplete or of poor quality; the student makes frequent errors in work.
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work is poorly done, if at all. Overall performance is inadequate to pass the course. Note: No name = No credit Illegible = No credit Late = No credit (will <u>STILL</u> complete and submit the assignment)

Academic Honesty Policy:

“On my honor, I will maintain the highest possible standards of honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility. This means I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and as a member of this academic community, I am committed to creating an environment of respect and mutual trust.”

Violations of this code include, but are not limited to:

- Copying another student’s work or allowing your work to be copied
- Allowing someone other than yourself to complete work in your name
- Using unauthorized assistance on an assessment
- Allowing someone other than yourself to take an assessment
- Falsifying or manipulating data
- Submitting the same work for multiple courses without instructor’s permission
- Giving answers to other students
- Lying to an instructor
- Plagiarism: direct copying is plagiarism. Only original work may be submitted for an academic course.

- Tampering with or destroying the work of another student

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:

At the instructor's discretion, the student **will** lose partial or full credit for the assignment. Student will be on notice that the incident will be recorded in the gradebook and parent will be informed. Future academic dishonesty incidents will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, a meeting with the principal, and possible loss of credit, suspension, or expulsion. Direct copying is plagiarism. Only original work may be submitted for this (and any other) academic course. If you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism, please visit the [OWL at Purdue's "Avoiding Plagiarism" web page.](#)