

2021-2022 Class Syllabus

Forensic Science

with Mrs. Philius

Welcome to Forensics!

Get ready for a challenging but awesome year. I am so excited to get to know you and to help you develop your investigative skills as we explore the field of forensics together. Expect to work hard and have lots of fun! This is my 3rd year teaching the course and it just keeps getting better and better!

Bring to Class

- Binder, notebook or folder
- Pen or pencil
- Colored pencils
- Highlighter
- Loose-leaf paper
- Ziploc bags or reusable zipper pouch

Course Description

The Forensic Science curriculum is designed to build upon science concepts and to apply science to the investigation of crime scenes. Students will learn the scientific protocols for analyzing a crime scene, how to chemical and physical separation methods to isolate and identify material, how to analyze both biological evidence and the criminal use of tools, including impressions from firearms, tool marks, arson, and explosive evidence.

Course Standards

SFS1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to properly conduct a forensic investigation of a crime scene.

SFS2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information on various scientific techniques to analyze physical, trace, and digital evidence.

SFS3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information relating to biological evidence in forensic investigations.

SFS4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze the role of impression evidence in order to make a physical match examination.

SFS5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to Medicolegal Death Investigations.

Google Classroom

To encourage blended learning, online assignments will be posted weekly through Google Classroom. At least one Google Classroom assignment per week will be graded and entered in Infinite Campus. Students should be familiar with how to navigate the online platform, communicate with their teacher, and submit assignments on time. If there are technology limitations, please notify me.

Grading

Grades will be updated weekly and available to parents and students via Infinite Campus. This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester. The semester average will be determined as follows:

1. **Major Assessments:** Tests, major projects (45%)
2. **Minor Assessments:** Quizzes, labs, minor projects/activities (20%)
3. **Daily Work:** Classwork, homework (15%)
4. **Final Assessment:** (20%)

FAQ's**Q: Can I eat my snack while we are working?**

A: No. There is a strict no eating and drinking policy in our classroom for many reasons. The exception to this rule is bottled water.

Q: Do we have homework tonight?

A: Yes. Even if you are fully caught up on all assignments, you should be working ahead or doing some independent reviewing!

Q: What if I disagree with, or have a question about, one of my grades?

A: The BEST option is to chat with me in person, when we can BOTH look at an assignment and discuss it. If necessary, you are welcome to send me a detailed email about the concern.

Contact Mrs. Philius

naketa.philius@hcbe.net

Room: 1406

Phone: 478-218-7537 ext. 64638

Tutoring: Tu/Th from 3:00-3:30 PM.

Google Classroom Code:

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Attendance Policy

Students should make every effort to be in class every day. If you miss a class for any reason, here's what to do:

- ☐ Ask me ASAP what was missed. I will give you any necessary hard copies of papers that you need, and I will chat with you about when to make up any missed tests, quizzes, or lessons.
- ☐ Turn in any projects or assignments that were due on the day(s) you were absent.
- ☐ Do not rely on friends. They might forget important details.
- ☐ Be prepared to take a missed test or quiz ASAP. You are not guaranteed extra days to study. If it is not feasible for the teacher to administer your test on the day you return, a makeup test will be scheduled within 5 days.
- ☐ If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you will be marked tardy.

Hall Pass Policy:

Students are expected to attend and participate in class from bell to bell. Errands and bathroom visits should be taken care of between classes. Students are only excused from class time with teacher or administrative permission. Leaving the classroom without permission is considered skipping. If there is a true emergency, communication with your teacher is key.

Classroom Expectations

1. **Listen** to the teacher, and ignore others who try to distract you!
2. **Follow directions.** ☺
3. **Keep a positive attitude.** Don't judge a person, book, or assignment too soon.
4. **Electronic assignments are due on 8:00AM on the due date.** See me with questions.
5. **Be proactive.** Plan ahead. Do not assume you will get an extension if you ask for one.
6. **Be prepared.** This includes printing when needed. If you need to print, do it before my class starts!
7. **Ask for help.** I can't help you if you are silent when confused!
8. **Be respectful.** Please do not have side conversations.
9. **BYOD.** Electronic devices may be visible/used only on days when the teacher grants permission.
10. **All school rules will be enforced as outlined in the school handbook.** Yes, this includes the no gum, food, or drink (except bottled water) rule as well as the guidelines for appropriate attire.

Consequences:

- ☐ Minor disruptions/infractions will receive warnings, conferences, and/or parent phone calls.
- ☐ Repeating minor offenses will result in detention.
- ☐ An office referral will occur for major disruptions/infractions, failure to serve assigned detention, or after repeated detention assignments.

VHS Retesting Policy

Students may retake two major assessments per semester, after completing test corrections and/or tutoring/remediation. Retests must be scheduled with the teacher in advance of the designated retesting date. A retest cannot replace a zero for a task never initially completed.

FAQ's Continued

Q: Can I study with a friend?

A: You may study with a friend, but you may not write together if it's an individual assignment; I will be checking to make sure two papers aren't too similar.

Also, I strongly encourage you to write and study your OWN notes instead of the notes shared with you from someone else, because you don't know if they are complete and accurate.

Q: What's the honor code?

A: Academic integrity is of the utmost importance. Cheating or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you cheat or plagiarize, the result is a zero as a placeholder until you demonstrate learning on an alternate assignment. The teacher will make parent contact. If cheating occurs on a major assessment, it will also result in alternative discipline or ISS.

Q: Is there a textbook for this class?

A: Yes. We have a class set of *Forensic Science Fundamentals & Investigations* by Bertino & Bertino. If you need to check out a textbook on occasion, please speak to me about it. If a textbook is lost, it will cost \$81.55 to replace it.

Q: Are there additional supplies needed in the classroom?

A: Yes. If you'd like to donate disinfectant wipes, Kleenex, hand soap, or Lysol, we can always use more.

Student and Parent Confirmation

I have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations for **Forensic Science** taught by **Mrs. Philius**.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Parent's Phone: _____

Parent's Preferred Method of Direct Contact:

- ☐ Text
- ☐ Call
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Letter/Note

Questions? _____

Please use the space below for any comments or concerns.

What I Wish My Child's Teacher Knew...
