

Forensics – Course Syllabus – Notre Dame High School

Mrs. Fenton

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Course Introduction

Welcome to Forensics at Notre Dame High School. You are about to begin a unique experience where you will have the opportunity to learn cutting edge science and perform experiments and protocols you will find challenging and interesting. Forensic science is higher level course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes.

Learning will take place through teacher-class discussion, reading the textbook and taking notes, laboratory investigations, videos, computer activities, supplemental reading, and of course homework, quizzes and tests. Laboratory experiments and dissections will be an integral part of this course.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and providing you with a challenging but rewarding science experience this year.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Apply knowledge learned in previous courses such as Biology and Chemistry
- Work independently and in groups to apply that knowledge
- Use scientific terminology to describe the techniques they are using
- Understand how science is used to solve societal problems such as crime
- Incorporate History with science
- Explain how Criminal justice fits in with Forensic Science
- Understand that Forensic Science is applied Biology and Chemistry
- Learn the new uses of technology in solving crimes and issues of biometrics.
- Expand their use of the English language to document what took place and how they arrived at their conclusions
- Understand that there are limitations to what physical evidence can tell us but that the evidence does not lie
- Expand the use of critical thinking

Method of Evaluation

3 Tests

Quizzes (announced)

Midterm Exam

Labs

Homework Assignments

Projects

Course Tools

Notebook

Colored pencils

Textbook: *Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigations* by Bertino and Bertino

Course Outline

History of Forensics

Crime Scene Investigation – Evidence Collection

Fingerprinting

Handwriting Analysis, forgery, and Counterfeiting

Tool Marks

Hair Analysis

Casts and Impressions

Death: Manner, Mechanism, Cause

Blood and Blood Spatter

Forensic Anthropology

Forensic Entomology

Glass Evidence

Firearms and Ballistics

Forensic Toxicology

Homework Assignments

Most assignments will be completing labs and lab packets. If a homework packet is handed out it will be due the day of the test. This will afford all students the opportunity to use their packets as a study guide for each test.

Packets will be returned to students for midterm exam and final exam.

Please note that each student will be assigned a numbered textbook in the beginning of the year. Students will be given time to exam textbooks for any issues and document on textbook form. Students are expected, to hand in at the end of the school year, the same numbered textbook, in the same condition as received.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns.

Mrs. Cheryl Fenton