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| **Westland Hialeah Senior High**  **Forensic Science Syllabus 2018-2019** | | |  | | Instructor: Dr. Jasmine Suris Soto E-Mail: jsuriss@dadeschools.net Phone: 305.818.3000 Ext. 2194 Room: 414 | |
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| Overview I would like to welcome you to this year’s Forensic Science course, which has recently joined the Law, and Criminal Justice Academy. Forensic science is the application of scientific knowledge to questions of civil and criminal law. This course is a lab-based, hands-on course that will explore what forensic scientists do. You will learn modern forensic methods and use scientific methods to solve legal problems.  This course will focus on collection and analysis of crime scene evidence (such as serology, toxicology, entomology, odontology and trace evidence), and explore lab analysis techniques, (such as chromatography, DNA analysis, fingerprinting, and hair and footprint analysis).  Forensic scientists are also required to testify in court about their methods and analysis of evidence. To make a convincing case, you need to be able to clearly and concisely explain the results of the labs and techniques you use and explain the significance of your results in lab reports.  Finally, mock crime scenes will be investigated, and real case studies analyzed. Interdisciplinary Relations Forensics is a diverse field, and rarely are forensic scientists “generalists” – people who specialize in all aspects of forensic science. Forget what you see on CSI (insert city here). Forensic scientists don’t wear pumps to a crime scene, they rarely interview suspects or make arrests, and they are not experts in all areas of forensic investigations. Rather, forensic experts usually specialize in one or two branches of forensic investigation.  A botanist may be an expert in forensic botany. An entomologist may be an expert in forensic entomology. Chemists may specialize in forensic toxicology or arson and bomb analysis. People with expertise in physics may focus on firearms and ballistics or blood spatter analysis.  It would be impossible to survey all areas of forensic science in a single high school course. Rather, we will explore a range of fields, topics and methodologies to give you a sense of the diverse fields of study in forensics.  Nevertheless, forensic science is an applied scientific discipline, and your success in this course will require you to apply your basic understanding of physics, chemistry, biology and even math to explore the range of topics surveyed. Expectations/ Evaluation  * You will be expected to abide by the honor code set in place by the school. Cheating will not be tolerated. Including in cheating is plagiarizing. (See clarifications in the back) * Be in your assigned seat and ready to begin by the time the bell rings. * Complete homework assignments by their due dates. * Study for quizzes and exams. * Follow directions promptly when they are given.   Your grade will be a composite of the following areas: Bell work (Do Now), Case Studies, Labs, Participation, Practice and Outlines |  | | Materials The following is a list of supplies required at all times:   * A three-ring binder with 3 dividers (Outlines, Do Now/Practice, and Lab work) * Supply of blue pen, #2 pencil, highlighter, college ruled notebook paper, and graph paper. * Calculator and flash drive. * Occasionally you will be asked to bring colored and white printer paper, construction paper, glue, markers and other items to conduct experiments.  Textbook & Resources  * Forensic Science- An Introduction Richard Saferstein * Forensic Science- An Introduction - Basic Laboratory Exercises - Richard Saferstein * Learning Resources: for access to virtual flashcards, activities, and glossary reference by chapter: * <http://school.cengage.com/forensicscience> * [www.Biology4me.weebly.com](http://www.Biology4me.weebly.com)  Milestones  * Final Exam     \*This syllabus is tentative and subject to change. Please be flexible. | |

**CLASSROOM POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Further clarification on academic integrity and group work**

Many activities in science are completed in groups. Although students are encouraged to collaborate to complete the activity, evidence of individual thinking in the analysis should be present. Lab work is the most common example of group work in science.

Students in the same lab group may…

* Discuss data and results
* Record the same data and results
* Collectively perform the experiment and collect data

Students in the same lab group may NOT…

* Answer the conclusions questions together
* Copy or share answers to analysis questions (pre-lab or post-lab)
* Copy data from a lab group member, if not all members participated in the experiment
* Violate any other guidelines outlined in the school honor code

**Daily Routine:**

* I will strictly adhere to the WHSHS tardy policy. In order to be marked present, you must be in your assigned seat and completing the bellwork (“Do Now”) written on the board **BEFORE** the bell rings. Participation in class discussion and activities is extremely important. Please raise your hand to ask or answer questions, but only speak when called upon. Be respectful of others while they are speaking and do not be afraid to express your opinion appropriately. Any form of backtalk, inappropriate comments, excessive talking or noise making, or disrespect of any sort will not be tolerated.
* **Consequences:** verbal warning, written conference and warning, sent out of class with Administrative referral and call home (dependent upon the severity of the situation, a student may be sent directly out of class with a referral).

**Passes:**

Only three passes to the restroom and clinic will be granted per grading period. If you use all your bathroom passes, participation points may be deducted for that day (See me privately if you have any questions, concerns or medical needs regarding using the bathroom). Please see me if you are not feeling well and need a pass to the clinic.

**Electronic devices:**

Cell phones, tablets or other electronic devices are not to be used or visible during class unless otherwise specified. You may not use these devices for calculators or any other function (DO NOT ASK!) There is absolutely no charging of these devices in the classroom. **Consequence:** Sent out of class with Administrative referral and call home.

**Food:**

There is no eating, selling or distributing of food or drinks allowed in the classroom. If you arrive to class early you may step outside to eat a snack or take a sip of a drink, as long as you are in your seat when the bell rings.

**Consequences:** verbal warning, written conference and warning, sent out of class with Administrative referral and call home.

**Appearance & Hygiene:**

You will adhere to the WHSHS dress code always. Please refrain from putting on makeup, deodorant, perfume, cologne, lotion etc. as many people are allergic to the fragrances placed in these items.

**Consequence:** dress code referral