

Ben Barber Innovation Academy

Mansfield ISD

2019-2020

Instructor: Jessica Soto

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Conference Period: 10:00-10:45 AM

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Room: B228

Forensic Science

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- iPad or computer (fully charged)
- Free apps for iPad (to be announced)
- A spiral notebook
- Various color ink pens including black and blue
- All reading material/assignments will be provided by the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science.

- PIEMS Number: 13029500
- General Requirements: This course is recommended for students in Grades 11-12.
- Prerequisites: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security Biology, and Chemistry
 - Can count as Advanced course if (3) prior credits in Law& Public Safety have been completed

Texas TEKS Objectives: Knowledge and skills for §130.339 (Forensic Science)

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate professional standards/employability skills as required in business and industry.
- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations.
- Ability to use scientific methods and equipment during laboratory and field investigations.
- Ability to use critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and problem solving to make informed decisions within and outside the classroom.
- An understanding of the history, legal aspects, and career options within forensic science.
- An understanding of the procedures of evidence collection while maintaining the integrity of a crime scene.
- A recognition of the methods to process and analyze trace evidence commonly found in a crime scene.
- Ability to analyze impression evidence in forensic science.
- Ability to analyze blood spatter at a simulated crime scene.
- An understanding of the toxicology laboratory procedures in forensic science.
- An understanding of the serology laboratory procedures in forensic science.
- Ability to analyze deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) laboratory procedures in forensic science.
- An understanding of how to identify drugs found at a simulated crime scene.
- Ability to evaluate bullet and tool mark impressions in a criminal investigation.
- An understanding of the principles of questioned document analysis in forensic science.
- An understanding of the principles of anthropology which are relevant to forensic science.
- Ability to calculate the time and cause of death in relationship to decomposition of the human body.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENT

No requirement unless specified by instructor

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

- Class will begin promptly for 3 hours every other day. Late arrivals enter as quietly as possible and take the nearest available seat to minimize disruption to the class.
- Late students will be considered tardy for the first 20 minutes of the period. Students entering after twenty minutes will be considered absent.
- You are personally responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements about changes in course assignments and procedures.
- Each student is expected to have a fully charged iPad and attend all lectures, follow all lesson assignments/testing as required, and turn in all required work assignments by the assigned due date.
- Absences which result in not receiving topic information or assignments may be made up by going to the class website (ClassroomGoogle.com) and completing the material and assignment for the instructional period you missed.
- The student is responsible for obtaining any assignment(s) which are missed due to an absence.
- You must be present to take tests unless noted on Course Website. Please make arrangements to make up a missed test on the day you return to class.
- All students work in investigative units (small groups) during the semester. You are expected to participate and work as a team, each handling different aspects of the class assignment.

COURSE GRADING

Six weeks grades shall be obtained by averaging daily work (homework, class work, or daily/pop quizzes, MISD Curriculum Based Assessments, etc.) and major grades (tests, projects, lengthy assignments, etc.). The exceptions include science classes, which include grades for labs. Daily assignments may count more than once, but no more than twice.

CERTIFICATION

There following certifications will be obtained throughout the semester:

- ***Crime Scene & DNA Basics***
Cost: \$0 (Administered through the National Institute of Justice website)

MISD GRADING SYSTEM FOR GRADES 9-12

The district high schools use a weighted numerical grading system.

The following chart reflects the MISD grading system for grades 9-12.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	Below 70

An "Incomplete" (I) reflects incomplete student work and is not considered an academic grade.

**See MISD Board Policy EIC (LOCAL).

GRADING PRACTICES

Six weeks grades shall be obtained by averaging student work as detailed below. Daily assignments may count more than once, but no more than twice. MISD Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs) are calculated as part of the daily work category.

EVALUATION

Course evaluation will be based on the total possible points for assignments/exercises given and will be determined by class progression. You may expect a minimum of between FIVE and TEN individual grades per six-week grading period, as per the school districts grading policy.

MAJOR GRADES (40%)

There will be at least **(3)** major grades during the course. Each worth 100 possible points (100%). Exam dates may be changed as needs dictate. Exams will come from both lecture and resource assignments. Exams may consist of fill in the blank, multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes will be conducted at the discretion of the instructor and will be graded as daily coursework.

DAILY WORK (60%)

Students will participate in daily class activities as dictated by the content of the lesson and will include, but are not limited to: project based learning, real-world scenarios, situational prompt responses, panel interviews, specific skill evaluations, report writing, note keeping, and journal entries (all individually and/or as a team).

SEMESTER EXAMS

Each semester, specific exam schedules are designated for MISD high school and dual credit courses. These schedules must be followed. Neither mid-term nor final exams are given early. If a student is absent on the day of an exam he/she will take the exam at a date/time designated by the school.

TEST RETAKES

- Students who fail a major test/assessment (below 70%) will be allowed to retake or correct up to a 70% grade. This does not include semester examinations.
- Students are expected to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or correct a major test/assessment.
- Students are encouraged to participate in tutoring opportunities before retaking a test.
- Each teacher will communicate routine requirements for retakes and corrections in his/her course syllabus.
- All retakes or corrections must be completed prior to the end of each six week grading period unless the student is afforded time, after the six week grading period, as a result of the district's absent/make-up guidelines.
- See UIL Eligibility ("No Pass/No Play") guidelines for additional information related to grades and UIL Eligibility.

LATE WORK

- Teacher designates due date and time for assignment (Beginning of class period, End of class period, designated time of day)
- If student fails to meet the due date and time, then the student has till the next class period (next A day or B day) to turn in assignment to be considered one day late.
- Students will be assessed a penalty of 30% points for up to one class period late.
- Score of a zero may be given for work turned in after one day late.

MAKEUP WORK (Due to absence for any class missed)

- The teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.
- A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. When absent, the student is afforded the number of days missed plus one additional day to turn in makeup work. [A/B Block Example: A student misses Monday and Tuesday of the week and he/she returns on Wednesday of that same week. Student work from Monday's absence is considered late after Friday, and student work from Tuesday's absent is considered late after the following Monday.]
- A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
- A student is encouraged to speak with his/her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence.
- A student will be permitted to make up tests and turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.
- See UIL Eligibility ("No Pass/No Play") guidelines for additional information related to grades and UIL Eligibility.

WEIGHTED CREDIT

Per MISD Board Policy EIC (LOCAL):

- The District uses a weighted numerical grading system. In calculating GPA, ten points (per semester) shall be added to a student's average in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Pre-AP courses, Academic Decathlon, and courses considered to be District-approved college level dual credit courses. All other courses shall not receive weighted points for completion.
- No weighted credit point shall be added for grades lower than 70.
- Weighted grading shall be reflected in the student's GPA and not numerically per course on either the student's report card or transcript.

UIL ELIGIBILITY (“No Pass/No Play”)

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods.

- Each six week grading period will stand alone for eligibility purposes.
- A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all of the student's grade averages are 70% or higher at the subsequent 3 week grade reporting period.
- See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL) – Exempt Courses.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of personal integrity and any act that violates the academic integrity of this institution is considered academic dishonesty.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

CHEATING

- Copying from another student's electronic device, assignment or test paper, laboratory report or any other form or report on an individual or group assignment/quiz/test.
- Using a device, during any academic exercise, material and /or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the assignment/quiz/test.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid on an assignment/quiz/test from another student without permission.
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release.
- Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for you on an assignment/quiz/test.

PLAGIARISM

- It is the appropriation, theft, purchase or obtaining by any means another's work; the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one's own for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another's work without giving the original author credit.

COLLUSION

- It is the unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Daily Work

- Every Offense
 - Academic and Disciplinary Consequences
 - Assign grade of zero
 - Write a referral
 - Teacher contacts parents
 - Consequence from administrator would be a minimum of AC placement

Exams or Other Major Assessments

- Every Offense
 - Academic and Disciplinary Consequences
 - Assign grade of zero
 - Write a referral
 - Teacher contacts parents
 - Consequence from administrator would be a minimum of AC placement
 - An alternative exam or major assessment can be completed for a maximum grade of 70%
 - Academic Associate is notified and will schedule a meeting with student, parent and teacher

Units of Study

Unit 1	Lab Safety and Scientific Method, History of Forensic Science, Forensic Science Careers
Unit 2	Crime Scene Response, Documentation, and Evidence Collection
Unit 3	Impression Evidence Collection and Analysis
Unit 4	Blood Spatter Analysis, Toxicology, Serology, and DNA Analysis
Unit 5	Drugs and Unidentified Substances
Unit 6	Ballistics and Tool Mark Impressions
Unit 7	Questioned Document Analysis
Unit 8	Forensic Anthropology
Unit 9	Forensic Entomology and Body Decomposition