Forensic Science and Crime Scene Investigation

Syllabus; Spring 2023

Instructor

Andrew King

Email

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Background

M.S. Secondary Education
Samford University

B.S. Biological Sciences
The University of Southern Mississippi

School Phone Number

(205) 221-9277

Planning Time

3rd Block (11:30am – 1:20pm)

Class Description

Forensics is a fascinating subject that I am sure you will enjoy learning about! We will be discussing topics of forensic science and criminal investigation, many of which you've probably heard about. This would include DNA analysis, cadaver analysis, fingerprinting, firearms analysis, and many other methods to investigate crimes and catch criminals.

This class will be structured to teach you essential science concepts and introduce you to an interesting career opportunity. You may not be interested in a career in forensics, but learning about forensics will be very enjoyable and enlightening. If you happen to be interested in a career in forensics or law enforcement, then this class will show you many pathways to achieve those career goals. You may be surprised how many jobs in forensics are available to you right out of high school!

Expectations

My goal in this course is to get you hyped about science! I expect you to come to class every day with a willingness to learn. If you can do this, then I promise you a fun semester.

You must complete assignments on time and be in class consistently to succeed. If you fail to come to class or participate when you are here, then you should not expect to pass. Otherwise, you should have an easier time academically because the material is just so fascinating.

Goals for you by the end of the semester:

You will be able to:

a. Know basic forensic evidence collection skills
b. Understand how criminal investigations actually work (TV shows lied to you)
c. Explain the history of forensic science
d. Apply aspects of biology, chemistry, and physics in order to solve crimes

Course Materials

All learning materials will be provided to you. Many resources will be provided to you digitally, so access to your laptop, both at home and in school, is often required. You must bring a pencil and paper with you every day. As cheesy as it sounds, the most important thing you bring every day is yourself, ready to learn. This class will be fun if you apply yourself; it will probably be a drag if you don't.

Grading Policy

All assignments from one unit will be due on the day of the unit test. **I will not allow make up work past that point except for extraordinary situations at my discretion.** There will be opportunities for bonus credit in this class. This may be in the form of bonus questions on tests or extra effort points given on assignments. I give out extra points when students go above and beyond on assignments. However, I will NOT provide extra credit assignments at the end of the semester. **If you find yourself with a failing grade, you are responsible for finding out what you are missing and remedying the problem.** If you happen to be failing at the end of the semester, prepare to meet with me to find out what your options are. If you are unable to turn in assignments to bring your grade up, your parents will be notified.

It is your responsibility to be present on test days. If you miss a unit test, it will be put in the gradebook as a zero. It is your responsibility to make it up. I will not remind you. If you have an excused absence, I will make efforts to allow you to retake your test, but tests are not surprises. You should know if you missed a test and it is still your responsibility to make up if you miss.

If you miss a test for any reason, I will only allow a makeup as soon as you are present again. If you miss a test and fail to ask for a retake, I will not allow you to make it up weeks later after we have moved on.

Unit tests, the midterm exam, and the final exam make up a large majority of your grade. Keep that in mind.

Cheating Policy

I do not accept cheating. **There will be serious penalties for all parties involved if cheating is discovered.** If you decide to turn in all your work at the last minute, I will be thoroughly comparing it to the work of your peers. If your assignment is a copy of one of your fellow students', both of you will receive a 0 for that assignment.

When exams or quizzes are taken, phones will be kept away entirely. Using your phone or laptop for any reason while taking an exam or quiz will result in a zero.

I intend for every single one of you to make a great grade in my class. You may make a bad grade on a test every now and then. That is perfectly fine and will be met with opportunities for grade improvement. Making zeros from cheating will hurt your grade far more.

Cellphone Policy

Cellphones are a root of distraction and defiance. They are allowed in two places, either on the perimeter of the room on a charger, or in the phone caddy. Your phone should not even be on your person because it will distract you. If I see or hear your phone at all, it will be taken up and may be given to the office for your parents to come pick up.

Disturbing Material Policy

This class consists of some disturbing material. This is the nature of forensic science. You and your parent will be given a form to sign that makes you aware of the types of disturbing subject material you might see. If you need to step out of the classroom during a lesson, please let me know and remain just outside the door. If you need to speak to a counselor, then let me know and I will write you a pass.

The form that you and your parents must sign is due immediately and you will not be able to progress past unit 1 of this course without it signed. If you fail to get it signed, you will be put into another science class.