



## Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations Syllabus 2024-25

Welcome to Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations!  
This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final course for the pathway and 4<sup>th</sup> science  
for graduation.

**Teacher/Contact Information:** Mr. Fordham  
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Phone: (229)903-2100

### Classroom Goals

- Understand the history of forensic science and key individuals in the field.
- Introduce students to crime scene investigations.
- Nature of forensic examination of evidence at a crime scene.
- Procedures for securing, processing, and sketching a crime scene.
- Proper evidence collection techniques.
- Prepare a written report for the court.
- Learn to provide usable evidence and testify on the evidence collected at trial.
- Knowledge of serial killers, organized crime, criminal profiling, cybercrime, and serial crimes.
- Understand the technical and numerical literacy in forensics.

### Guidelines for Success

Students will be Champions, but it takes:

P-Preparation

R-Respect

I-Integrity

D-Dependability

E-Excellence

### Classroom Rules: Champions know the classroom, Rules!

- Stay on task and remain active the entire class.
- Cellular devices are prohibited once entering the classroom.
- Remain seated once entering the classroom.
- Be on time for class and be prepared to learn.
- Show respect to yourself and your classmates.
- Clean up your work area before leaving class.
- There will be NO disruptive talking during class.
- No profanity during class.
- Do your own work unless instructed by the teacher for group activities.
- Find solutions and not excuses.
- Computers are ONLY to be used for assignments in this class unless authorized by the instructor.

*\*All infractions will be handled according to the LCHS student handbook and school policy\**

**If students do not meet class expectations, the instructor will take this course of action below:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense, Teacher/Student lecture, given a warning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense Teacher/Parent Contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense Referral to school administration

### Activities:

Champion students are successful, but they must strive to become CHAMPS. The CHAMPS approach will teach how and what you need to do in each classroom activity.

Students will be able to access material through the school systems Google Classroom. All activities will be put into Google Classroom. Students will complete projects, tests, and labs in the classroom. There will be professional speakers who will come and talk about the field of forensics. Students will be reading a novel by Michael Baden “Dead Reckoning.”

**Large group activities:** consist of students working on lab work or teacher-directed lectures.

**Individual Activities:** consist of students working independently on tests, quizzes, and daily assignments to be completed by the student. Students will be required to read the novel In Cold Blood and answer questions individually.

## **Grades**

### ***Grading Scale:***

A-90 and above Advanced Proficiency

B-80-89 Average Proficiency

C-70-79 Partial Proficiency

F-69 and below Developing Proficiency

### **Relative Value:**

Tests are worth 40%

Daily Assignments, Quizzes, and Labs are worth 35%

Projects are worth 25%

Benchmark Exams (9 weeks) are worth 20%

## **Classroom Procedures**

### **Entering the classroom:**

Students will:

- Enter the classroom quietly.
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Be prepared to come to class.
- Remain seated until attendance is completed.
- Work on Bellringer

### **Tardy to class:**

You are considered on time if you are in your seat before the bell rings. If you are late to class, students must have evidence of why they are tardy. If you are coming from another teacher’s grace, you must give the instructor a late pass to exonerate you from being tardy; there are no exceptions to the rules.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense=Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense=Warning

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense= Teacher/Parent Contact noted in Infinite Campus

4<sup>th</sup> Offense=Teacher assigned detention before or after school, Parent contacted noted in Infinite Campus

### **Paper or pencil:**

Students should come to class prepared with a

- blue/black pen or a pencil.
- 2” or 3” Binder to keep essential curriculum for future tests or exams.

### **How to find out what the daily assignments are:**

Each student can access Google Classroom to find the daily or weekly assignments with due dates.

Students should access the technology platform daily to see what tasks must be completed or when they are due. It is the student’s responsibility to check this daily.

**Pathway Chords:**

Students will take an assessment at the end of the third course. Students must pass all three preps in order to take the assessment. A passing grade is needed to complete the pathway and be able to buy the pathway chords.

**Turning in assignments:**

Each student should turn in assignments to Google Classroom if the work is digital. If the task is on paper, a file organizer with each class period is listed for students to turn in the assignments.

**Returning assignments to students:**

Assignments will be returned to students with teacher feedback detailed on the work.

**Finding out grade status**

The students/parents can access Infinite Campus online to monitor their grades.

**Student responsibilities after an absence**

When students return from an absence, they can find out what assignments they have through Google Classroom or by asking the instructor to arrange to make up for the missing assignments.

**Late, missing, or incomplete assignments**

Any late, missing, or incomplete assignments can receive up to a 50% reduction in their grade. Any work over three (3) days late will result in a zero (0) if I have yet to approve the work for later submission.

**Communication procedures with parents and families**

Parents can contact me by email, listed above, or by calling the school directly. My planning period is during 3<sup>rd</sup> period, and I will communicate with the parents during this time. Parents should be able to monitor their child's progress through infinite campus. If a student is below developing proficiency and continues to stay off task, the parent will be sent an email, and it will be logged into Infinite Campus. The assigned counselor to the student will also be notified via email to provide information on the student's progress.

**Ending class**

Each student will:

- Remain seated until the bell rings.
- Clean up their work area.
- Put computers back into their assigned numbers spot in the computer cart.

**Technology Use**

Cell phones and other electronic devices should always be silent and out of sight unless the instructor gives permission.

**Consequences for Classroom Rule Violations**

If a student violates ANY classroom rule, the student will be designated a consequence. This depends on the frequency and severity; the student may receive one or more.

**Consequences for Classroom Rules**

- Warning-Teacher/Student lecture
- Documented in Infinite Campus-Parent contacted
- Documented in Infinite Campus referral for ISS/OSS (in school or out of school suspension).

**Special Note: The consequences of classroom rules depend on the severity or the frequency of the student's behavior!**

**Consequences for Code of Conduct Violations**

A student must be familiar with the student handbook and school system policies. Students will adhere to the school's student handbook and policies. All infractions will be dealt with according to the student handbook. The instructor will document the incident in Infinite Campus for future reference and will notify a counselor or administrator about the violation.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings, my name is Jeff Fordham. I want to introduce myself and tell you that I am pleased and excited to have your son or daughter in my Forensics Science and Criminal Investigations class. I am providing the following information so you will know my expectations and how your student can succeed in my class. Please take the time to discuss the information here with your son or daughter. Although I am reviewing this information in class, discussing it at home will be a meaningful way to increase understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

I believe that if we all work together, your student's success is certain!

This class introduces students to crime scene investigation and the principles or theories associated with forensic science. The major goal of this course is to give students an understanding of the process in the field of forensic science and criminal investigation. By the end of the year, students should be able to do the following:

#### **Classroom Goals**

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- Procedures for securing, processing, and sketching a crime scene.
- Proper evidence collection techniques.
- Prepare a written report for the court.
- Learn to provide usable evidence and testify on the evidence collected at trial.
- Knowledge of serial killers, organized crime, criminal profiling, cybercrime, and serial crimes.
- Understand the technical and numerical literacy in forensics.

#### **Classroom Rules**

The classroom rules are designed to ensure that no student's behavior interferes with the learning of others.

- Stay on task and remain active the entire class.
- Cellular devices are prohibited once entering the classroom.
- Remain seated once entering the classroom.
- Be on time for class and be prepared to learn.
- Show respect to yourself and your classmates.
- Clean up your work area before leaving class.
- There will be NO disruptive talking during class.
- No profanity during class.
- Do your own work unless instructed by the teacher for group activities.
- Find solutions and not excuses.
- Computers are ONLY to be used for assignments in this class unless authorized by the instructor.

For these violations of these rules, I will assign minor infractions.

While I will enforce the rules necessary, I will emphasize teaching students how to be responsible for themselves. I will stress the following traits, which are called **Guidelines for Success**:

**Students will be Champions, but it takes:**

- P-Preparation
- R-Respect
- I-Integrity
- D-Dependability
- E-Excellence

**Grading**

Below is the information your student has been given about grades:

**Grades**

***Grading Scale:***

- A-90 and above Advanced Proficiency
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- C-70-79 Partial Proficiency
- F-69 and below Developing Proficiency

**Relative Value:**

- Tests are worth 40%
- Daily Assignments, Quizzes, and Labs are worth 35%
- Projects are worth 25%
- Benchmark Exams (9 weeks) are worth 20%

**Contact Information**

The students know they can always ask me questions in class and schedule an appointment to talk with me whenever they need help. If you want to contact me, my email address is [fordhamje@lee.k12.ga.us](mailto:fordhamje@lee.k12.ga.us).

The best time to reach me by phone is at 10:30 AM during planning.

Thank you for your time. Please cut off the form below, sign it, and have your student sign indicating you have discussed this information. Have your student return the slip below by Monday.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fordham

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We have discussed this information about how to be successful in Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_