

FORENSIC SCIENCE SYLLABUS

Course Overview & Expectations | 2026–2027 School Year

Instructor: Coach Hernandez

Room: 403

Course: Forensic Science (TEA Aligned)

Contact: 361-584-2547

1. Course Overview

Forensic Science is a course aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards that introduces students to the application of science to law. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence analysis, forensic biology, chemical analysis, fingerprinting, and legal protocols. Emphasis is placed on laboratory safety, critical thinking, objective observation, and scientific inquiry.

2. Year-at-a-Glance (TEA TEKS Sequence)

Term	Unit / Focus Area	Key TEKS Concepts Covered
Q1 (1st Six Wks)	Introduction & Crime Scene Investigation	History of forensic science, Locard's Exchange Principle, crime scene processing, search patterns, documentation & chain of custody.
Q2 (2nd Six Wks)	Trace Evidence & Physical Evidence	Hair, fiber, glass, soil analysis, fingerprint classification, ridge patterns & latent print development techniques.
Q3 (3rd Six Wks)	Forensic Serology & DNA Analysis	Blood typing, bloodstain pattern analysis (spatter geometry), DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis & STR profile analysis.
Q4 (4th Six Wks)	Forensic Toxicology & Chemical Analysis	Identification of unknown substances, poison and toxin detection, chemical reaction analysis & chromatography techniques.
Q5 (5th Six Wks)	Forensic Anthropology & Decomposition	Skeletal examination, estimating age and stature from skeletal remains, stages of decomposition, forensic entomology & time of death estimation.
Q6 (6th Six Wks)	Ballistics, Document Analysis & Trial Prep	Firearms examination, bullet trajectory, handwriting analysis, forgery, mock trial & expert witness testimony presentation.

3. Class Rules & Expectations

- No Cell Phones / Personal Electronics:** Cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and unapproved electronics must be turned off/silenced and put away before entering the classroom. Unauthorized use will result in disciplinary action according to campus policy.

- **Be Prepared:** Bring your forensic science notebook, a positive attitude, and required lab/class materials daily.
- **Safety First:** Adhere strictly to laboratory safety procedures, protective equipment requirements, and Coach Hernandez's instructions.
- **Active Engagement:** Participate in mock investigations, collaborate during lab analysis, and submit assignments on time.
- **Respect:** Show respect to fellow classmates, school property, and yourself at all times.

4. Grading Policy

Major Grades (Tests, Projects, Mock Crime Scene Investigations): 40% | Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Lab Reports, Evidence Logs): 40% | Lab 20%

5. Syllabus Acknowledgment & Signature

Please read through the syllabus above, sign below, and return this slip to Coach Hernandez. Your signature indicates that you have read and understood the course expectations, electronic device policies, lab safety protocols, and grading rules.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____