Honors Forensic Science Syllabus

Ms Maccormack – spring 2017

**Conduct**

In Forensics class, promptness, attendance, and good behavior are a must. We have a lot of crime scene reconstructions and evidence analysis. Being in class and participating appropriately will be necessary to be academically successful. Parents will be notified of any problems that arise with these expectations.

**Integrity Statement**

Students will work in groups for labs and other assignments during this course. They are expected to participate in the group activity and contribute their own independent thoughts and products. Using someone else’s work or ideas will be considered cheating and will not be tolerated. **Examples of cheating** include but are not limited to: copying someone’s paper OR giving your paper to someone so that they can copy it; plagiarism (using someone else’s words as your own); and getting help during a quiz/test either from your neighbor, your notes, your phone, etc.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned 2-3 nights a week. Homework is designed to focus the student on important text reading and vocabulary. The homework assignments will help ensure academic success on quizzes and tests as well as guide the students to prepare for case studies discussed in class. Homework will be monitored and reported on the interims, but is not included in the grade calculation since homework by itself does not demonstrate mastery of content knowledge.

**Final Exam**

Students will take a teacher made exam in January. This exam will count as 20% of the student’s final grade for the course. Qualifying seniors may be exempt from this exam.

Grading

9 weeks Final Grade

Tests - 40% 3rd quarter – 40%

Laboratories - 25% 4th quarter – 40%

Project/Case Study – 20% Exam - 20%

Quizzes - 15%

Items Needed

* 3 ring binder
* Scientific calculator
* Pen/pencils
* Internet access
* Agenda/Planner

**About the Course**

Honors Forensic Science is an elective course that applies concepts learned in biology, chemistry, and physics to process evidence through advanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Topics of the course include fingerprints, toxicology, DNA, chromatography, and many more. Case studies will include OJ Simpson, Stephanie Bennett, Eric Miller, John F. Kennedy and more. Many of these case studies are provided supplements to the textbook. Due to the nature of the course, some of the material read and discussed in class may be disturbing. Additionally, each quarter the students will have a focused book or movie study project that relates to an area of interest in forensics.

Contact Information

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Available on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3:30 and on other days by appointment