

FORENSICS: 2018-2019

Glencoe High School

Instructor: Mr. Stanley
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Welcome to FORENSICS !

As our society has grown more complex, it has become more dependent on rules of law to regulate the activities of its members. Forensic science applies the knowledge and technology of science to the definition and enforcement of such laws.

Interesting learning activities will be provided to stimulate comprehension, retention and a sense of valuing of the topics studied. Concept-oriented, hands-on learning activities will be used whenever possible. Cooperative team-work is a significant component of this course. Coursework will be planned to insure that the student reaches or exceeds Hillsboro School District and Oregon State Standards for science credit.

The use of technology, career awareness, safety, current events in science and laboratory techniques will be integrated throughout the course.

Course Topics include the following (time permitting):

1. History of Forensic Science
2. Crime Scene Securing & Recording
3. Autopsy
4. Time of Death Analysis
5. Drugs & Drug Testing
6. Toxicology & Poison Detection
7. Blood & Blood Spatter
8. DNA Analysis & Profiling
9. Glass & Bullets
10. Hair Analysis
11. Fingerprint Capture & Identification

Standards: Whenever possible, course content will seek to follow and fulfill the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), as put forth by the Oregon Department of Education.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>

Recommended Materials:

1. 3-ring binder with paper and dividers OR spiral notebook and folders
2. Pens and pencils
3. School planner / homework notebook / homework pages in binder

Absences:

Regular attendance is the best assurance of receiving the information you need to be successful in class. If you are absent for any reason:

1. SPEAK WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.
2. BORROW THEIR MATERIALS (NOTES, HANDOUTS, ETC.).
3. CHECK THE CLASS WEBSITE.
4. Ask the teacher.

If you are absent for a number of days in a row, you have that number of days +1 to turn in work from

that stretch. Prolonged absences (greater than a day or two) are usually quite challenging for all of us – do not get behind!

Labs can realistically only be performed at school, and the equipment is available on a limited basis. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a time before or after school, or during lunch, to makeup a lab. Written assignments OFTEN replace the makeup lab at the teacher's discretion, and by *prior arrangement* with the teacher.

Tardiness:

Students are expected to be in the room and at his/her seat when the bell rings. No hall passes will be issued in the first, or last, 20 minutes of class (20/20 rule). The school policy states that students arriving after the bell are tardy, and will be given detention.

Cheating, a.k.a. Academic Dishonesty:

The worst a student can do on any whole graded item (exam, quiz, lab, assignment, etc.) is 50% of the points.

Students are encouraged to converse and assist with other students when it is in a manner that is not inconsistent with testing or assignment instructions. Assisting others is prohibited, however, when it would constitute academic dishonesty. Prohibited events include, but are not limited to, using or sharing prohibited study aids or other written materials on tests or assignments. Academic dishonesty also includes sharing, collaborating, or communicating with others on tests or assignments, before or during tests or assignments, in violation of direction of the class instructor. Academic dishonesty may also include knowingly sharing false information or knowingly misleading another to reach a false answer or conclusion. Plagiarism, or using ideas or writings of another as your own, will not be tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may complete an alternative assessment chosen by staff. Discipline may involve the District prohibiting the student from participating in school-sponsored activities or events; detention, denial, or revocation of school-conferred titles, distinctions, honors or privileges; or suspension or expulsion.

Evaluation and Grading:

To EARN your Forensics grade, each semester's marks will be calculated as follows:

| <u>Grading Scale:</u> |
|------------------------------|
| A = 90-100% |
| B = 80-89% |
| C = 70-79% |
| D = 60-69% |
| F = < 59% |

| <u>Categories:</u> | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Tests & Quizzes | 80 % |
| Labs, Assignments | 20 % |

I do not round up grades. If, for example, you receive a 79.9%, that is a very high 'C' grade indeed. Students concerned about being on the border at grading time should take full opportunity of test fixes, and any other chance to earn points – including, most importantly, preparing diligently for exams.

In addition to the course hours in the classroom, the expectation for work completion outside of class includes approximately **20** hours. Activities might include homework, projects, readings, exam preparation and group work.

The worst a student can do on any graded item is 50% of the points, or an 'F' grade (Cheating may be an exception). If a student does not show passing proficiency with the required subject matter on any graded assignment, does not turn an item in, or simply doesn't take a quiz or exam, that student receives 50% of possible points.

Re-takes: I strongly discourage retaking exams for a variety of reasons. The re-take may be an entirely different exam, testing the same content, but in an entirely different format – usually essay.

Fixes: Students wishing to improve their score on an exam or quiz can “fix” it by writing complete sentences that feature the information they did not master first time around. Spelling and grammar count, and the amount of fix points is determined by the instructor, but can amount to an entire letter grade improvement. STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT ON THE ORIGINAL TEST DAY, AND ON THE DAY OF FIXES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE IN-CLASS FIX POINTS. Other fix points can be earned up to 2 weeks after the exam date, but they often involve considerably more effort and writing.

Late Work:

Students are eligible to earn A MAXIMUM OF 75% OF THE POSSIBLE POINTS for late work. Late work is accepted up to 2 weeks after the original due date.

If a student was in class

1. On the day the assignment was given, **AND**
2. On the day it was due

then they need to turn it in when I ask for it. Otherwise, it will be marked “Late”.

Cell phones, ear buds, headphones, and tablets:

Phones that are used, or are visible, will be confiscated by the classroom teacher/staff member and turned into the main office. 1st offense – Cell phone confiscated and teacher will return at the end of class. 2nd offense – Cell phone confiscated and parent/guardian may pick-up in main office. 3rd offense – Cell phone confiscated and parent/guardian may pick-up in main office, resulting in suspension for the student.

Laptops, or tablets with a separate keypad, may be permissible per arrangement with instructor.

Kindly,

Mr. Stanley
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