** Forensics Course Syllabus**

**COURSE:** Forensic Science

**TEXT:** Saferstein, Richard. 2016. *Forensic Science An Introduction,* Third Edition, Boston, MA: Pearson, Inc.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Karen Franks

**Email:** kfranks@plano88.org

**Website:** franksbiology.weebly.com

**Phone:** 630-552-3178

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course will be a lab-based, hands-on course. It involves components from all of the sciences, especially anatomy, biology, chemistry, and physics.  It teaches students to use critical thinking, deductive reasoning, laboratory techniques and problem-solving skills and apply them to real-life situations and criminal law cases. This course will focus on the collection and analysis of crime scene evidence (such as serology, fingerprinting, document forgery, ballistics and trace evidence) and explore lab analysis techniques (such as chromatography, fingerprinting, and hair and footprint analysis). The students will be required to clearly and concisely explain the results of labs and techniques used, as well as explain the significance of the results in lab reports. By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1) Determine and perform the most appropriate method of testing samples while obtaining the most accurate results; 2) Evaluate the scientific accuracy of various fields of forensic science; and 3) Predict and appropriately communicate the results of evidence collection and evaluation.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

1. Introduction to Forensics (Chapter 1)
2. Crime Scene and Physical Evidence (Chapter 2 & 3)
3. Microscope and Trace Evidence (Chapter 8 & 12)
4. Fingerprints (Chapter 16)
5. Document Examination (Chapter 18)
6. Forensic Serology and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (Chapter 9 & 11)
7. DNA (Chapter 10)
8. Firearms, Tool Marks, and Other Impressions (Chapter 17)

**NGSS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES**

There are no Next Generation Science Standards that are specific to forensic science; however, this course is designed to implement the science and engineering practices from NGSS. They are as follows:

1. Asking questions and defining problems
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations and designing solutions
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

**METHODS OF EVALUATING OUTCOMES**

Grades are a combination of homework, projects, labs, quizzes, and tests. There will be a cumulative exam at the end of the semester. Grades will be placed into categories. Tests/quizzes/projects will make up 75% of your grade. Homework/ classwork/ etc will make up 25% of your grade.

**HOMEWORK**

Work is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified after that it will be considered late. You have one calendar week to turn in any late work. After one calendar week, the work will not be accepted and you will be given a zero.

**ATTENDANCE**

Being in class is important! Students who have frequent absences often miss important information regarding topics, homework, labs and tests. **You are responsible for finding out about and turning in missed work and for getting the notes you may have missed.** Do not interrupt class in order to find out what you missed. If you have questions, you may see me after school from 2:40-3:00 or while others are working on an in-class assignment. Students must check the missing work area to find homework assignments and other papers that were passed out for that day. Students will get **one day** to make up the work for every day that was missed. Homework that was due the day you were absent must be turned in the day you return to school, **regardless if you have me.** If you miss a lab, you must come in to make up the lab or complete an appropriate alternative.

**Absences and Tests:** If you are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of a test, you will have one week to make it up. You must schedule a time with me to make it up. After one week, a grade of zero will be recorded in the grade book. If you are absent the class period before the test, **you must still take the test with the rest of the class.** If you miss the day of the test and your absence is unexcused, you lose the retake option for that test no matter your score on that test.

**PARTICIPATION**

You cannot just be physically present. You must be mentally present as well. In order to understand the material that we will be learning you will need to participate in class every day!

**BEHAVIOR**

I expect you to be respectful to yourself and others and to respect people's property and space. You will be in your seat and prepared to work having all of your materials with you when the bell rings. You will turn your cell phone in at the beginning of class or keep it out of sight.

**MOVIE PERMISSION**

During the Forensics course, I may choose to show movies that help to bring the class to life. Many students are visual learners and I try to reinforce learning in as many ways as possible. Often times I will show short clips from movies or television to emphasize a specific area of study. There may be a point where a movie in its entirety would be appropriate to enhance learning. I am asking that you give your son or daughter permission to watch these films. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM. KEEP THE COURSE INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

I have read and understand the **Forensic Science Course Guidelines** and what I must do to be successful in this course.

Student (Sign Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the **Forensic Science Course Guidelines** and also give my child permission to watch films in class.

Parent or Guardian (Sign Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be contacted? Phone email

Please provide me with the best phone number or email with which I can reach you

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_