



Forensic Science

Instructor: D. Esposito

Course Description

This one semester course is designed to introduce the basic aspects and techniques associated with *Forensic Science*. In order to maximize your achievement in this course, you should consider the following:

I. Grading & Class Policies:

- **Exams:** are graded on a **100-point** scale. Exams are given at the end of each unit of study & consist of the following sections:
 - **Part A:** 40 multiple-choice questions with 5 possible answer choices (bring pencils for the scan-trons).
 - **Part B:** free response section consisting of a variety of short and long response questions, calculations, etc.
- **Quizzes:** are graded on a **25-point** scale. Quizzes may be administered periodically throughout a unit and address topics ranging from **CLASS DISCUSSIONS** to **VIDEO DOCUMENTARY CONTENT**.

***EXAMS AND QUIZZES WILL COMBINE TO ACCOUNT FOR 50% OF YOUR QUARTERLY GRADE!**

- **Homework:** is graded on a **10-point** scale. With regards to homework assignments, consider the following:
 - All assignments are due the **DAY AFTER** they are assigned.
 - HW assignments that are submitted **ONE DAY LATE** will be awarded **HALF-CREDIT**. HW assignments that are more than one day late will **NOT BE ACCEPTED**.
- **Labs:** are graded on a **25-point** scale. With regards to laboratory work, be mindful of the following:
 - Failure to submit a lab will result in a **5-POINT DEDUCTION** for each day late.
 - Labs will no longer be accepted **5 SCHOOL DAYS** following the due date.
- **Special Assignments:** consist of **TERM PAPERS** and / or **IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS** and will be **GRADED AS AN EXAM**.
- **Class Participation:** your **ATTENTION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** in class is vital for maximizing your understanding of the course material and thus your potential success in this course.

- **CELL PHONES AND OTHER MEDIA-BASED DEVICES** are to be stored in **CELL-PHONE CADDIES** at the **START** of each period. These devices may only be used if permitted by the instructor.
- Repeated violations of the aforementioned policy may result in the **CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE** for the remainder of the school day and / or a **REDUCTION IN YOUR GRADE**.

- **Final Exam:** comprises **20% OF YOUR FINAL COURSE AVERAGE** and is administered during the last 2 weeks of the semester. The final exam will consist of the following components:
 - **Exam Component:** consists of **50 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS** covering all material (lecture, lab, documentary) presented throughout the semester.
 - **Presentation Component:** you will be asked to research a topic and present it to the class in the form of a **5-8 MINUTE POWER-POINT PRESENTATION**.
 - Each component of the final exam will count 50 points toward your grade for a total of 100 points.

II. Course Website & Class Materials:

- The course website can be accessed through the high school webpage. It must be checked on a **DAILY BASIS** and provides students and parents with the following information / materials:
 - Announcements regarding HW assignments, quizzes, lab, and exam dates.
 - Documents for uploading such as “student guides” that coincide with material presented during daily lectures.
 - It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to check the website daily to obtain all necessary materials and complete all assigned work (especially when absent). Failure to do so will result in a zero (0) for any missed assignments.

III. Absences:

- Regular attendance is vital to your success in this course. Missed exams, quizzes, or labs must be made up **IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR RETURN TO SCHOOL** either during a free period OR after school during extra help sessions.
 - Failure to make up any missed exams and quizzes by the **END OF A MARKING PERIOD** will result in a zero (0).
 - Failure to make up labs within **5 SCHOOL DAYS OF YOUR RETURN** will result in a zero.
 - HW is due the **DAY AFTER YOUR RETURN TO SCHOOL**.

IV. Extra Help: Informally, I am usually available before school or during a student’s free period as long as I am also free. Do not hesitate to arrange to see me if you are having difficulty with subject matter or to make up missed assignments.

V. Preparedness for Class: you must bring the following materials to class **EVERYDAY**. Repeated failure to do so will result in a reduction of your quarterly grade:

- Notebook (3-ring binder)
- Student Guide(s)
- Pens & Pencils

VII. Lateness to Class: you will be permitted 3 unexcused lates per quarter. Detention will be assigned for each additional lateness. Detention will be served after school on the day it is assigned. Failure to do so will carry a penalty as described in the student handbook.

Keys to Successfully Completing Forensic Science

- 1) Take notes as they are presented in class. All of your exams will be based on lecture notes & class discussions.
- 2) Be sure to complete ALL assignments as they are assigned. There will be NO EXTRA CREDIT given!
- 3) Be sure that ALL of your work is your own! Failure to do so will result in a zero!
- 4) Actively participate in all class discussions.
- 5) Check the course website regularly for announcements regarding assignments and exams.
- 6) Check your grades on the parent porthole regularly to monitor your class average.

*Do **NOT** plead ignorance regarding your average at the end of a marking period, or the course in general. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to be aware of your class standing at all times! There is nothing I can or will do at the end of a quarter / the course to make up for any failed responsibilities on your part.