**Forensic Science – Course Syllabus**

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**Course Description:**

The class is designed around authentic performance assessments with students working in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning. It involves all areas of science including biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science with an emphasis in complex reasoning and critical thinking. In addition, students must incorporate the use of technology, communication skills, language arts, art, family and consumer science, mathematics and social studies.

**Rationale:**

The Forensic Science class is designed around the idea that in the real world all learning is interrelated and interdependent. This class blends all of the sciences with the core subject areas. Students will be asked to read, research, hypothesize, interview, compute and use deductive reasoning to propose crime solutions. With an ever increasing use of technology, the students will record data, draw conclusions, and formulate the best method for communicating results.

The intention of this class, therefore, includes showing the interrelationships between all areas of study. It uses what is actually happening in the community, country and the world as its classroom and lab. As the student's improve on lab skills and procedures, they will exemplify what occurs in solving crimes. As they improve their deductive reasoning and critical thinking skills, they will develop a lifelong learning style.

**Textbook and other resources:**

Forensic Science : Fundamentals and Investigations 2nd Edition Bertino and Bertino

Forensics at Rice University CSI: The experience http://forensics.rice.edu/

**Notes from Mr. Whiting**

I am excited to have been given the opportunity to teach this course. Let’s try and make this course the most exciting and informative course on the list. Sam Houston is one of, if not the, best criminal justice schools in the country as well as having an amazing Forensics program. This program is your gateway into many possible career options. Take ownership in what we accomplish this year.

**Grades and Grading:**

Grade calculation is based off of a campus-wide policy. Major grades are worth 70% and minor grades 30%. This has changed from 60/40 to emphasize the importance of assessment in our grading policy. Major grades will consist of exam grades, lab grades, and any presentations or projects. Minor grades will be daily work, small quizzes, participation grades and any other small assignments including homework.

 Standard grading scale: 90-100% →A

 80-89% → B

 70-79% → C

 69% and below → failing according to district and UIL

**Late and Missing Assignments**

Assignments not turned in on their respective due dates will go into the gradebook as an “M”. This stands for missing and will count as a zero. All missing assignments must be turned in before the unit exam. **The missing assignments will be replaced with your test grade up to a 50 max.**

**Tardies:** Tardy students miss valuable instruction. Nothing will slow down or interrupt a lab or activity more than having to re-explain all the instructions. Be on time, be on time, and be on time. When the tardy bell rings, doors close and lock.

**Dress code and other school policies:** (From my chemistry syllabus, same rules apply) “We will be enforcing the school dress code and all other school policies. There will be activities involving microscopes and glass slides. This is a LAB-BASED course; we will be working with fragile glassware and some nasty chemicals. Glass breaks, flip-flops and sandals are prohibited on these days. We provide the aprons but again proper footwear needs to be worn. Students MUST wear closed-toe shoes in the laboratory. Failure to do so will require your absence from the lab. Be prepared for “less fun” assignments if this should happen.” In forensics we will get dirty, work with chemicals, blood, bones, maggots, etc. DON’T WEAR YOUR GOOD CLOTHES ON LAB DAYS!!

 **\* NO FOOD, DRINK, HATS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, ETC!!!!**