

DEPARTMENT: SCIENCE

NAME OF COURSE: FORENSIC SCIENCE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

- Forensic Science is a one-semester course that will provide students with an appreciation for the study of crime scenes, the natural sciences, and the law.

Student values will be fostered within the course through interdisciplinary work that incorporates discussions of social expectations, current issues and case studies that relate to the study of forensic science.

This course will include authentic assessment through exams, quizzes and various hands-on laboratory investigations. There is also a required final project based on the topics / analytical tests learned throughout the semester.

MAJOR TOPICS COVERED

- An Introduction to Forensic Science
- The Crime Scene
- Physical Evidence
- Physical Properties of Glass and Soil
- The Microscope
- Hairs, Fibers and Paint
- Forensic Toxicology
- Forensic Aspects of Arson and Explosion Investigation
- Forensic Serology
- DNA
- Fingerprinting
- Firearms and Tool Marks
- Document and Voice Examination

TEXTBOOKS

- Forensics Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, Stuart H. James, Jon J. Nordby and Sara R. Kreisman

REQUIREMENTS

- Students are required to complete laboratory and homework assignments. Classroom participation is also expected. There will be topic quizzes and exams during the semester. Additionally, there will be a final exam.

GRADING PROCEDURES

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Students are expected to respect classroom procedures and to submit quality assignments. The quarter grade is determined as follows:

- 50% assessment: tests and quizzes
- 30% labs
- 10% projects and homework
- 10% participation