

Forensics Syllabus
Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Prerequisites: Earth Science, Biology I

Mr. Daniels
Spring 2020

Course Description

This course centers around the evidence found at crime scenes and the role of forensic scientists in using this information to solve crimes. Major topics include the history and organization of crime labs, physical evidence, organic and inorganic analysis, toxicology, arson and explosive investigation and more.

Course Materials

Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day.

- Pencil (better to use than pen when doing calculations) and notebook paper
- 3-ring binder for recording lecture notes
- Completed homework
- Your best effort!

Instructional Philosophy

Forensic science is designed to introduce students to the techniques, skills, and limitations of the modern crime laboratory. Students can expect hands-on activities involving the processing of crime scenes and the analysis of evidence. The intent of this course is to move forensic science into the real world of criminal investigation, making science relevant and pertinent for each student.

Students are expected to practice good note taking, work well with their peers on in-class assignments, and to apply their knowledge in the laboratory while following all safety instructions. Safety in the laboratory is very important and goofing off in lab will result in detention or a discipline referral as well as a zero on the lab assignment. All students will sign a lab safety contract at the beginning of the semester.

Course Standards

In general, the areas we will cover this year include:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Introduction to Forensics and Crime Scene Processing | 8. Serology - DNA |
| 2. Questioned Documents | 9. Forensic Anthropology |
| 3. Trace Evidence | 10. Forensic Odontology |
| 4. Impression Evidence | 11. Eyewitness Reliability |
| 5. Forensic Entomology | 12. Death Penalty |
| 6. Autopsy and Toxicology | 13. Dogs in Police Work |
| 7. Serology – Blood | |

Assignments

Assignments are to be completed by the beginning of the block on the due date. I do not accept late work!

You will make arrangements for missed work according to the school policy. I accept little responsibility for work that you have missed, since it is your responsibility to get your assignments and make sure they are turned back in to me in a timely manner.

Assessment and Grading Plan

A variety of assignments contribute to the final six weeks grade in this course. The final letter grade is assigned according to UCPS grading policy. (A= 100-90%, B= 89-80%, C= 79-70%, D= 69-60%, F=59% or below.)

My grading policy is a weighted percentage system. All assignments are graded out of 100%. Homework and classwork will count 40% towards the final grade and quizzes and tests will count 60%.

Homework and class work may be collected and graded either for completion or accuracy. At times, these assignments will not be graded, but we will go over the answers in class. Quizzes will take place periodically to assess understanding.

Students may exempt the final exam if they meet the following criteria:

- 1. Semester average of 90 or higher and no more than 2 unexcused absences from class**
- 2. Semester average of 80 or higher and no more than 1 unexcused absences from class.**

Behavior

Classroom Expectations: (In addition to the UCPS and CATA rules)

- Come to class prepared.
- Always follow directions.
- Show respect for yourself, other students, and the teacher.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior:

1. Warning
2. Repeated warnings will result in referral to administrator OR direct referral if necessary according to Student handbook

TARDIES TO CLASS

Consequences:

- 1st Tardy – Warning
- 2nd Tardy – Warning
- 3rd Tardy – Phone Call Home
- 4th Tardy – 1 Day ASD
- 5th Tardy – 1 Day ASD
- 6th Tardy – 2 days ASD
- 7th Tardy – 2 Days ASD
- 8th Tardy – 3 Days ASD

Online Learning Platform

Canvas: Some assignments will be submitted on our "learning platform," Canvas. Assignments can be submitted a variety of ways including, uploading files, typing into text boxes, and sharing Google documents/presentations. Individual assignments will indicate which method of submission on Canvas is expected. If students need a refresher or have questions, they can access the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for specific instructions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure assignments are submitted on time and to contact the instructor if there is a problem. The Canvas Learning Platform logs every student log-in on Canvas which provides teachers with a list of when students log-in to Canvas using their user id.

Canvas is used to grade assignments as well, however, the grades in Canvas, while accurate to that assignment, are NOT the teacher's gradebook. The teacher's gradebook includes categories of assignments that may be weighted differently and may include grades for assignments that did not use the Canvas Learning Platform. Therefore, students and parents should always check their child's true average on the Parent Portal on Powerschool.

Resources

EmpowerED Parent Portal - <https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/domain/2917>

Textbook – Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science by Saferstein

Outside Help

As you can see on the syllabus, this class moves fairly quickly. You are encouraged to seek help early and often if you are struggling in this course. I am here by 7:30 AM if you need help.