

Forensic Science Course Syllabus



Required Supplies

- ✓ laptop
- ✓ calculator
- ✓ lab apron
- ✓ safety glasses
- ✓ vinyl disposable gloves (minimum 20 count)

General Course Objectives

- The student demonstrates professional standards/employability skills as required by business and industry. The student is expected to achieve business and industry employability skills standards such as attendance, punctuality, meeting deadlines, working toward personal/team goals every day, and ethical use of technology.
- The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and/or field investigations, using safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices.

Grades

Summative Grades (70%): Tests & Projects

Formative Grades (30%): Daily grades, quizzes, labs, etc.

Testing

Tests will be announced at least one week prior to the test date. Original tests will be completed with the laptop through OnTrack. Make-up tests will also be through OnTrack and taken during tutorials *only*, with a maximum grade of **70**. You will need to complete any makeup/retakes for a unit test prior to the following unit test day.

Course FAQs

How important is attendance to success in Forensic Science?

Many of the topics taught will build upon each other, so it is important that all students attend class regularly. Any absent work will require the student to attend tutorials as no scheduled class time will be used for absent assignment recovery.

What if I'm absent the day of a quiz, activity, or lab?

All formative grades that are missing will be *replaced with the unit test grade*. The student can receive full credit on an assignment if the full assignment is completed during tutorials and **prior to** the unit summative assessment.

What if I'm absent the day of a test?

The student can receive **full credit** on missing tests due to an **excused absence**.

Please refer to *The Westside Way: Student/Parent Handbook* (Section II: Grades).

- All retakes will be submitted **prior** to the **end** of the **grading cycle**.
- If a student scores higher on his/her retake, the retake grade will replace the original test grade with a maximum value of **70**.

When are tutorials? Wednesdays 11:15-11:45am; Thursdays 3:30-4:00pm

What do you expect in terms of student conduct?

Students are expected to follow laboratory safety rules, HISD's code of student conduct, and any additional conduct rules established in class. Westside's discipline management system will be implemented as necessary. *Use of personal electronic devices is allowed during all activities except quizzes, tests, and semester exams*. Students are encouraged to use their notes on quizzes but will **not** be permitted to do so on tests or semester exams.

What is the best method of contact?

Email is the BEST method to get a quick reply. Ravens and owls are equally acceptable.

tdohoney@houstonisd.org

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Topics Covered

Fall Semester

Cycle 1 Content

- ✓ Forensic Science Introduction & Scientific Methods
 - ✓ History and Legal Aspects
 - ✓ Questioned Document Analysis
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Cycle 2 Content

- ✓ Evidence Collection
 - ✓ Anthropology & Pathology
 - ✓ Entomology & Decomposition
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Cycle 3 Content

- ✓ Processing and Analyzing Trace Evidence - *Fracture Analysis, Glass*
- ✓ Processing and Analyzing Trace Evidence - *Paint*

Spring Semester

Cycle 4 Content

- ✓ Processing and Analyzing Trace Evidence - *Hair & Fibers*
 - ✓ Impressions Evidence – *Tire, Shoe & Fingerprints*
 - ✓ Blood Spatter/Serology & DNA
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Cycle 5 Content

- ✓ Toxicology & Identifying Drugs
 - ✓ Ballistics & Firearms
 - ✓ Arson & Explosives
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Cycle 6 Content

- ✓ Cybercrimes
- ✓ Personal Project Journal
- ✓ Personal Project Presentation