

# Forensic Science Syllabus

Pioneer High School

Course Overview

2023-2024

**Instructor:** Mr. Anthony Phillips

**Contact info:** Room B 213

Ph. 271-1600 x 4051

[aphillips@sharylandisd.org](mailto:aphillips@sharylandisd.org)

**Tutoring Time:** Mon. & Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. (or by appointment)

## Course Description:

Forensic Science is a laboratory-based course in which students will apply their prior knowledge of biology, chemistry, and mathematics to the field of crime scene investigation. Students will use a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse, neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprint analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.

## Materials:

- A folder or a binder just for this class!
- Pens / Pencils

## Grading policy:

**Major (Exams / Reports / Projects / Presentations / Essays) – 60%**

**Minor (Daily Classwork / homework / quizzes) –40%**

- Labs:** Forensics is a very lab-oriented science, and therefore requires that the student be able to produce meaningful lab results. Most, but not all, lab investigations will be completed according to lab handouts. Students are expected to make sure everyone in their group understands the material covered in the lab, and the lab results.
- Quizzes:** A quiz can be given at any time – with or without warning. On some quizzes you will be allowed to use your notes, on others you won't.
- Missing a lab:** Try to never to miss a lab. If the lab is no longer set up, I usually require that students write a paper on the lab topic in order to make up grades for a lab.

## Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Semester I	Week	Semester II
1	Intro to Forensic Science/History	10	DNA/ Blood spatter
2	Types of Evidence/Crime Scene	11	DNA/ Blood spatter
3	Crime Scene	12	Document Analysis
4	Entomology	13	Drugs
5	Anthropology	14	Drugs
6	Fingerprints	15	Toxicology
7	Hair	16	Ballistics
8	Fiber	17	Final project
9	Midterm Exam	18	Final Exam

### Classroom rules and policies:

I expect all of my students to look and act like high-quality students. Having respect for their teacher, for your classmates, for yourself, and partaking in school spirit activities will make you a high-quality student. Following these rules will show your level of respect and will determine how much respect you receive from your classmates and the teacher:

1. Personal electronic devices are not to be displayed or used during class time without teacher permission.
2. Be respectful of when it's someone else's turn to talk.
3. Be on time and be prepared to work.
4. Use appropriate language.

*Student and Parent Contract*  
*Forensic Science*

2023-2024

Forensic science is the application of science to criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. The subject matter and content of this course will deal with legal and criminal issues. Sensitive matters may be addressed. Graphic pictures, guest speakers, Rated (R) movies and possible field trips may be used.

By signing this, you and your parent(s) are aware of the nature of the course and the possibility of discussion of certain topics. If at any time you or your parent(s) should feel uncomfortable discussing or participating in an activity, please feel free to let me know. Alternative discussions and/or activities can be planned.

Your signature indicates that you and your parent(s) have read and understand the syllabus for this course.

For the student:

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone # to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments to teacher:*

For the Parent:

I, the parent (or guardian), have reviewed the enclosed course overview with my daughter/son, and agree to support my student in being successful in this course.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone # to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address : \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer to be communicated with in English or another language? \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments to teacher:*