

**South Forsyth High School**  
**Forensic Science Course Syllabus**

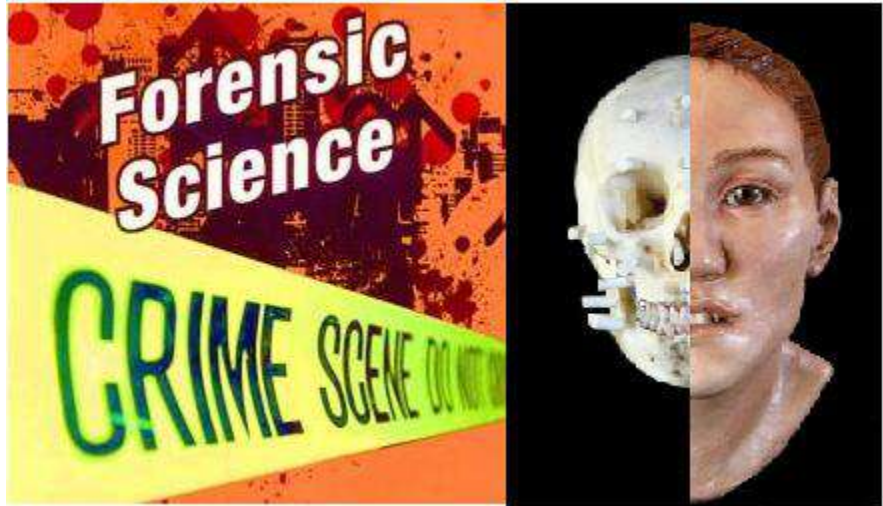
Mrs. Amy Miller

2014-15 School Year

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Students, Parents, and  
Guardians,

Welcome to Forensic Science at South Forsyth High School! I am Mrs. Miller, and I am very excited to engage my students in *forensics*—the application of *science* for solving crimes. This is a course rich in exploration



and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes.

This is my sixth year as a science teacher at South Forsyth High School; this year I am teaching my favorites—Biology and Forensic Science! I have a Master’s degree in Science Education from the University of Georgia and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, where I also played basketball. I enjoy mountain biking, cooking, and spending time with my husband (Mr. Miller, a Social Studies teacher at South), and our wonderful 1.5 year old daughter Mabyn (as well as our dog and 8 “chicken children”).

I believe your experience in forensic science will be one to remember—the cases are fascinating, the labs engaging, and the content a satisfying application of all sciences studied up to this point. Plan to **actively participate** in class, complete **all assignments** thoughtfully and on time, and to **study** regularly outside of class. Attached you will find the course syllabus.

Please feel free to contact me at any point by email ([amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us)) or at (770) 781-2264 x 101222.

Sincerely,

Amy Miller

Science Teacher

South Forsyth High School

COURSE TITLE: **Forensic Science** → *Extra Help Sessions: Mon 3:45-4:15 PM & Wed 7:45-8:15,*

**Instructional Focus, other times by appointment**

TEACHER NAME: Mrs. Amy Miller

E-MAIL: [amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

ROOM: East Hall 1222

PHONE: 770-781-2264 EXT: 101222



*File this syllabus for future reference*

**Course Description:**

Forensic science is a senior-level course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes.

**Georgia Performance Standards:** Course standards can be found at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

**Units of Study** (these should be labeled on binder divider tabs):

1 – <b>Observation, CSI &amp; Lab Techniques</b>	7 – <b>Drug ID &amp; Toxicology</b>
2 – <b>Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause &amp; Time</b>	8 – <b>Handwriting, Forgery, &amp; Counterfeiting</b>
3 – <b>Forensic Anthropology &amp; Entomology</b>	9 – <b>Arson/Fire Investigation &amp; Explosions</b>
4 – <b>Trace Evidence (Hair/Fiber; Pollen/Soil; Glass; Casts)</b>	10 – <b>Blood &amp; Blood Spatter</b>
5 – <b>Fingerprints</b>	11 – <b>Tool Marks &amp; Ballistics</b>
6 – <b>DNA Fingerprints</b>	12 – <b>Psychological Profiling &amp; Interrogations/ Confessions</b>

**Learning Resources:** for access to virtual flashcards, virtual activities, and Digging Deeper prompts:

<http://school.cengage.com/forensicscience>

With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, we will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction including **ItsLearning**. Plan to check itsLearning every day for updates to the **Planner**, Unit Folders for course documents, and Bulletins from Mrs. Miller.

**Keys to Mrs. Miller's Class:**

*Think. Work. Be involved. Be consistently curious. Connect content to the real world. Check ITsLearning. You will thrive!*

**Required Assignments:** There will be approximately 12 units of study, each accompanied by 1-2 *summative* assessments, primarily consisting of various performance based assessments that require writing, research, well-executed lab protocol, and creativity. The number of *formative* assignments such as quizzes, homework, learning labs, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year. ***Students should expect a homework assignment regularly and should look over notes and new material each day.***

**Items needed for class:** Pens and pencils, paper, **three-ring binder with tabs/dividers**, and a **composition notebook** for labs, as thorough notation throughout labs is required.

**Extra Help: *Instructional Focus***—this is a GREAT time for small group help; *ask me for a pass!* I am also available Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:45-8:15. When possible, please make an appointment ahead of time so that I can devote my full attention to your needs.

**Make-up Work:** Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The FCS policy states that a student has 5 consecutive school days upon returning to school to submit make-up work. The instructor may offer additional time in extenuating circumstances.

**However, be advised that due to the laboratory intensive nature of the course, some assignments simply cannot be made up; alternative assignments will be required if they are missed.** Students should see ItsLearning and then meet with me prior to an absence or immediately upon return for direction regarding missed work. Any paper handouts will be available in our classroom as well.

***A daily update of everything done in class and access to files used will be posted on ItsLearning. Check it every day!***

**Late Work:** *Homework must be completed on the day it is due.* Long-term projects must be turned in on the previously scheduled date. If a student is absent on that day, he/she must turn in the assignment the day of return to possibly receive full credit. For every day late thereafter, points will be deducted. All other late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis: students must see me in extenuating circumstances.

#### **Grading Calculations & Policy:**

Course Average = 50% (1<sup>ST</sup> Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2<sup>ND</sup> Sem. Course Work)

1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

(Concept of formative assessment: <http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9>)

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

**\*Formative** Assessments include, but are not limited to homework, class work, some labs, quizzes, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.

**\*Summative** Assessments include, but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and final presentations, and culminating labs.

**-Work Habits** will also be evaluated every term based on the categories of Responsibility, Participation, Assignment Completion, & Interpersonal Skills

**Safety & Permissions:** Safety and health are basic values in the sciences. Students are required to adhere to:

**Science Safety Rules**

1. Use common sense.
2. Know and practice good body mechanics.
3. No work is to be done in the lab without the instructor present
4. Know your lab procedure before performing the lab, including safe handling of materials and equipment. Ask for instructions whenever you are confused.
5. Read the lab thoroughly before you start working on it.
6. Know the location of the safety blanket, the fire extinguisher, the eye wash station, the safety shower and the spill kits.
7. Wear a lab coat/lab apron, safety goggles and close-toed shoes when performing experiments. Tie back loose hair when performing experiments.
8. Always wear gloves when handling microorganisms or potentially hazardous materials. Once you have (or potentially have) had direct contact with these agents, your gloves are considered contaminated. You cannot touch any object that is usually touched without gloves, especially outside your workstation (i.e. faucets, doorknobs, light switches). Clean (potentially) contaminated equipment as soon as the process requiring gloves is finished.
9. Observe all labels on chemical bottles.
10. No food, drink or gum is allowed in this classroom during laboratory experiments.
11. Wash hands before and after working in the laboratory.
12. Sterilize the bench top with the prepared solution before and after a lab. Allow the solution to remain on the bench top for at least 3 minutes.
13. No personal belongings or items not needed for the experiment are allowed in the lab area. Bring designated notebook and pen/pencils to be kept in the lab for the year.
14. Avoid unnecessary activities as excessive movement can lead to contamination of the lab. NO ROUGH PLAY in the lab such as running, hitting, throwing, squirting, unnecessary noise, etc.
15. Never eat, inhale or unnecessarily handle lab agents.
16. Discard all materials as instructed by the teacher.
17. RETURN all equipment to proper locations after use. CLEAN UP your workstation as soon as the experiment is finished and WASH all lab ware as instructed by the teacher. DISPOSE of materials in the properly designated container. DISMISSAL from class occurs after the lab is clean and safe.
18. Make sure hot plates; gas and water lines are turned off when not in use. Double-check and check your neighbors.
19. Students are not allowed in the prep areas (except when accompanied by the teacher to obtain lab components).
20. EVERY lab accident must be reported immediately to the teacher, no matter how small or large. DO NOT endanger yourself or others by waiting or by covering up an accident.
21. **If in doubt, ask!**

The safety contract exists to ensure the safety of everybody participating in the forensic science classroom. In case of violation of safety rules or rules concerning the use of any materials in the Forensic Science program, a safety citation card will be issued.

***Should a student gather three violation cards, he/she will be disqualified from the Forensic Science classroom unless improved safety behavior is demonstrated and a meeting is held with the student, parent/guardian, curriculum coordinator, and teacher.***

<b>Laboratory Safety Violation Citation</b>	
Student's Name _____	
Period _____	Date _____
Check 1 or more:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to wear proper eye protection device during laboratory activity	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unapproved and dangerous behavior	
<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to follow laboratory instructions	
<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to follow established safety instructions	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other comments _____	
_____	
_____	_____
Instructor's Signature	Student's Signature

**Mrs. Miller's Classroom Contract**

Please **read** the following, **sign** in agreement have your parents sign as well, and promptly return.

**Rules (Striving to Develop Good Habits and Good Character):**

1. Be in your seat on time with all materials.
2. Be on task at all times.
3. Do not talk while a speaker is talking.
4. Respect yourself and all others.

**Procedures (This means I will...)**

- **Be prepared** with pens, pencils, paper, notebook, and my textbook everyday. Once the tardy bell rings I will not be allowed to leave the room to obtain them.
- **Be on time and ready** for class. If I am tardy, whether excused or unexcused, I will sign the tardy book before I go to my desk.
- **Be courteous and respectful** to the rights of everyone in the class.
- **Not interfere** with the work of anyone in the class.
- **Be neat** and help keep my work area free from clutter.
- **Not deface** school property by writing on the desks or lab tables.
- **Be responsible** for any and all work missed on a timely basis.
- **Refrain from chewing gum and eating** during class or lab.
- **Stay alert** during class, and Mrs. Miller promises she will work to keep you engaged.
- **Do my homework** and bring it to class on time. I understand the homework reinforces class concepts.

**Technology:** Laptops, cell phones, and ipods (one earbud only) may be used *at designated times and for Forensics work only.*

- If a laptop is being used, you must leave the taskbar up and may only have tabs related to Mrs. Miller's class open.

-Mrs. Miller has the right to close or collect any device used by students in an off-task manner.

**Consequences of breaking technology policy:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Warning

2<sup>nd</sup>: Teacher will shut down device and contact parent

3<sup>rd</sup>: Student will lose technology privilege in class

If the student does not follow these guidelines and the rules for South Forsyth High School, he/she will be subject to the following consequences:

- **First** Infraction: Warning

-**Second**: Remain after class

-**Third**: 30 minute detention before or after school with Mrs. Miller. Parents notified

-**Fourth**: Out of classroom. Parents called and administrative referral.

-**Severe** Disruption: Student sent immediately to office. Parents called with administrator.

**Please detach the following page, sign (student and parent), and turn in to Mrs. Miller.**

Please detach this page from syllabus and return to Mrs. Miller

**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Permissions:

Student Initials:	Parent Initials:	Statement for Consideration:
		1. I understand that <b>attendance</b> is a vital component to success in this course and will make every effort to be on time and present in class each day. When I have to be absent from class, I will contact Mrs. Miller by phone or email as soon as possible to arrange for catching up on missed work.
		2. I have read and understand the <b>grading</b> policy for Forensic Science. I know that I will have to keep a Laboratory Notebook that will be graded to the same standards as those kept by individuals employed in Forensic Science laboratories.
		3. I realize that <b>media</b> literacy is a vital component of this course and that some of the video clips shown/television shows analyzed will involve dramatic representations of criminal acts, crime scenes, and their investigation. In accordance with FCS policy, no R rated clips or movies will be shown at any time. I give permission for my child to watch the clips presented during class.
		4. I know that <b>teamwork</b> is vital to not only my success, but to that of my peers. As such, I commit to being a valuable and contributing member of my team.
		5. It is permissible to <b>photograph</b> the student referenced in this syllabus during curricular activities for posting on the course website, power-points, etc. The student will not be identified in any way (including his or her name).
		6. <b>Cheating</b> in a science classroom can take many forms – passing someone else’s work as your own, fabrication (lying) about results obtained, etc. The integrity policy for this class is that all students submit their own, authentic work. It is more important to determine why your laboratory results are skewed than it is to present results that are “right” (but not what you actually obtained).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ ( student), will strive to uphold the expectations set for me in science class. I have also reviewed the science lab safety rules included in the syllabus and agree to uphold all safety regulations.

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety Quiz** (to be completed in class):

1.	5.	9.	13.	17.
2.	6.	10.	14.	18.
3.	7.	11.	15.	19.
4.	8.	12.	16.	20.

