

Cold Spring Harbor H. S.
Class: Forensic Science
Teacher: Mrs. Koundi (Room#S 1)
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Course Outline: The Forensics course is an elective for those students with an interest in crime scene investigations, police work involving crime scene evidence, and the role of forensic science in upholding the law.

As I am new to teaching this course, I will be presenting a lot of information for the first time and will need to be somewhat flexible with the list of topics to be covered as well as the time frame within which each unit will be completed.

Student cooperation, enthusiasm, and understanding will go a long way toward helping me make this course as interesting and enjoyable for them as possible.

As this is an elective course, students will not be expected to produce a large volume of work; however they will be presented with a lot of valuable and interesting information. It will be up to the student to take in what he or she feels is information worth remembering in the long-term.

Testing in this class will consist of open-note assessments. This is to encourage students to both attend class regularly and on-time and to complete the guided notes that will be provided in class. A few questions on each test will require the student to synthesize information from different parts of the notes or to interpret something that they have written down. However, most of the questions will be direct recall from the notes. We will also be spending a lot of time watching case file videos and discussing them in both class and group settings.

Grading System: Students will be assessed using an open book test at the conclusion of each unit of study. Unit Tests will be 100 points and will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and matching questions.

Any in-class activities will be included in this grade. These grades may come from worksheets, labs, quizzes, or other methods of reporting. These activities will be worth from 10-20 points each.

Students will receive credit based on attendance and timeliness. Each student begins the quarter with 20 "on-time" points. Each time the student has an unexcused lateness, he or she will lose one "on-time" point. The student will lose two "on-time" points for every unexcused absence.

Course Syllabus: The following is a tentative list of topics that will be discussed this semester. As I have not taught Forensics in the past this list can and will be subject to change.

Topic 1: Introduction to Forensics and Crime Labs

Topic 2: The Crime Scene

Topic 3: Physical Evidence

Topic 4: Properties of Matter and the Analysis of Glass

Topic 5: Drugs

Topic 6: Forensic Toxicology

Topic 7: Forensic Serology

Topic 8: DNA

Topic 9: Hairs and Fibers

Topic 10: Fingerprints