

Mr. Sutherland's Forensic Science Guidelines

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Forensic science will hopefully be one of the most memorable classes you take in high school. We will be learning what really happens from the investigators viewpoint from the commission of a crime to its prosecution. You will learn the techniques of the "real" CSI's as they process a crime scene and its evidence. The class will be mainly hands-on and investigative. Particular attention will be paid to critical thinking and the thought process of both the criminal and the investigator.

MATERIALS: Students must be prepared each day to do the work of a criminalist. Each student must arrive every day with the materials necessary to do your job. This will vary with each section as we learn different techniques. Minimally, you need both a supply of pencils and pens, a notebook for handouts and binder paper for assignments, a field notebook for...well working in the field, and the clothes appropriate for the activity of the day. (E.g. if we are doing blood spatter you may not want to wear that new shirt or if we are collecting bugs on a dead carcass you may not to wear sandals).

GRADING POLICY: The course grade will be determined by your performance in the class. Content quizzes and homework assignments will be given over the book material. However, the majority of your grade will be the lab work you do in the field (the field in this case being wherever we are working). Being an organized, knowledgeable, detail oriented student CSI is important. Each semester's final exam will involve working with your CSI team and processing a crime scene using the techniques learned either all semester or all year. Grades will be given at the end of each unit and it is your responsibility to make sure your work is done completely and accurately. Grades can be accessed at mygradebook.com with your given password and name.

MAKEUP WORK: All makeup work must be completed promptly upon your return from an absence. Since what we are doing does involve cooperative hands-on learning, it is difficult both on you and your group if you are excessively absent. So please minimize trips, appointments, or activities to outside class time.

CLASS RULES: Standard rules of classroom behavior include mutual respect of other students and instructor, active participation in all classroom activities, being prepared for class, being in seats and organized when the period begins, restroom trips for emergency only and being responsible for your own work at all times. Lastly, we will be using expensive equipment at times during the year. I would expect that care be taken whenever using any lab equipment to assure that no harm comes to you, your lab mates, and the equipment.

OFFICE HOURS AND EXTRA HELP: I encourage students to seek extra help outside of class if it is needed. I am available either prior to school or lunch by appointment. After school you can drop by room 205 and I am normally available to around 4 pm. If you stop by for help, you should be prepared by bringing all of your materials. Creating a regular study group is also a good idea with your lab mates.