**Forensic Science**

**Mr. Kyle Finnegan**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description**

Forensic science is the application of science when dealing with criminal or civil law. It involves collecting, preserving, and analyzing evidence for use in court. Forensics is a broad field involving chemistry, physics, ballistics, toxicology, medicine, and much more. While forensic science has been popularized by shows such as CSI, actual forensic science is quite different from TV. Forensic scientists are often experts in just a single field. Diverse forensic teams work together, and each person brings their own skills to the table. Over the course of the year, we will work to give each of you a realistic understanding of what forensics is and what forensic scientists do.

This course is based on the curriculum guidelines provided by the State of Georgia under the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for Forensic Science.

**Textbook**

Forensic Science: And Introduction – Saferstein & Roy

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 1 Forensic Fundamentals

Unit 2 Physical Evidence

Unit 3 Impression Evidence

Unit 4 Biological Evidence

Unit 5 Digital and Document Evidence

Unit 6 Investigation of Death

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

At least one project will be assigned each grading period. This will be an extension or enrichment of the concepts discussed. Students will have 1 to 3 weeks to complete each project depending on the complexity of the task. Some tasks and/or projects will be completed in class (specifically the unit culminating tasks – these MUST be completed in class only).

**Course work/Classwork**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered

Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct.

*See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.***

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Students who miss assignments due to absence will be given the same number of work days as their peers had. Note: This may be as few as 1-2 days.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades -60% (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)
* Major Grades -40% (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Tasks)

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See teacher class page for Relearn/Reassess*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Students will actively participate in their own educational experience and be their own advocates.** * **Students will use their time wisely and work for the whole class period so as to not fall behind.** |
| **Accountable** | * **Students will be prepared for class (eg. In assigned seat, in possession of all required materials, attentive)** * **Students will complete work in the time allotted, and not spend it with frivolous or distracting behavior.** |
| **Respectful** | * **Students will follow class rules and will listen to redirection.** * **Students will show respect for themselves, classmates, and the teacher.** |

**Course Materials**

\* 1” 3-ring Binder

\* Pencils and pens

\* Loose Leaf Paper

**My contact information:**

Email: finneky@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

To sign up for class reminders:

Text @WSForS2024 to 81010

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_