

Forensics 25

Course Outline

School Contact

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Teacher Contact

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Program Overview

Forensics is the application of medical or other sciences to police investigations of crimes. Because it really includes many aspects of science, (e.g. Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Geology, Anatomy, Genetics, etc.) it would be very difficult to cover all aspects of forensic science in one course. This course, then, will concentrate on a few of the major areas where forensic science is routinely used in crime investigations. Every effort will be made to keep the information current, but the technology and the science used changes daily. This course will also include a large laboratory component. Forensics is really a hands-on application of science, and so this course will reflect that fact.

Topics for Possibly Study

During the first week of classes, students will be asked which areas (below) interest them the most. This information will be compiled, and we will cover as many topics as possible as time permits.

The Crime Scene

Forensic Entomology

Forensic Anthropology

Blood and Body Fluids

Weapons (Ballistics)

Fire and Explosives

Document, Fiber, Soil and Hair Analysis

Fingerprints

DNA Fingerprints

(other topics may be included if time permits)

Assessment

Formative assessment is the ongoing practice of learning to adjust instruction to focus on student understanding of the course material. Homework, note-taking, completion of formative practice assignments are designed to gauge understanding and are examples of 'for learning' activities – these activities are not directly used by the teacher to determine a grade. Specific and descriptive feedback by teachers, shared in face to face discussions with students, is used to improve the quality of their work.

Upon completion of the topic formative assignment, students will review the answer key and self-assess their learning within the unit. If there are further questions or difficulties with the material the student is recommended to meet with the teacher.

Summative assessment is the evidence used by the teacher to determine student achievement in relation to the curriculum outcomes as prescribed by Alberta Education; it is used to determine the student's grade. Students may be provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of course outcomes according to the process outlined in the Salisbury High assessment plan.

The student's school-awarded grade will be determined by the teacher, using any summative assessments and the teacher's professional judgment. Students are expected to complete all summative assessments prior to the determination of a final grade.

Since the course has such a heavy emphasis on labs, good attendance will be crucial for successful completion of this course.

The final exam in Forensics Science is a mock crime scene. The student will be required to use the provided 'evidence' to 'solve' the crime, and reconstruct what they think happened. There are no alternate final exams; and as such students will be given *at least* one month's notice of the final exam date. No instructions will be provided in the final exam, as the exam is designed to evaluate the laboratory skills that were developed during the course by the student.

Resources

- Supplemental Handouts (supplied)
- Please frequently check my eTeacher (<http://salcomp.ca>) page for PowerPoints, video links, assignments etc.

PowerSchool

You can view your progress in this course at <https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>. Click on the double dash to view your progress.

Graphic Content

Some of the topics and/or visuals in this course will be graphic and will portray dead bodies which may be in various states of decay or that have been mutilated. Autopsy photos and videos will be common. I will attempt to warn students when especially difficult pictures/videos will be shown, and students do have the option of not viewing these scenes. Students taking this course must realize that we will often be dealing with the death of humans, and that it is not acceptable to behave in a callous manner, or to disregard the emotional difficulty that death brings to both the victims and those that deal with the investigation.