



Be Respectful-Be Responsible-Build Relationships

Rules for Class

All upper school, North Oldham High School, and Oldham County Board of Educations policies will be followed in this class.

Course Description:

Forensics is the application of science to criminal activity for the purpose of discovery. This course is about how, why, and where to examine evidence in order to get the most pertinent information from a crime scene. The main part of the course details many of the more popular topics in forensic chemistry: glass, soil, fingerprints, hair, fiber, firearms, ammunition, chemical analysis, drugs, autopsies, and DNA typing. Students will learn and practice how each type of evidence is discovered and processed.

Supplies Needed for Class

- Forensics Illustrated CD-Rom (purchase from book store)
- Lab book (composition book or a non-spiral tablet)
- Writing utensils
- Calculator

Text

The text for this course, an interactive CD-Rom, is Forensics Illustrated by Brennon Sapp. It is on sale in the book store at the reduced price of \$15.

Availability for Extra Help

I am available before school every day after 7:00 am. I will be happy to arrange other times to work with students when necessary.

Contact Information

502-228-9998 (ext. 177) or bsapp@oldham.k12.ky.us

Extra Credit:

Extra credit assignments will be made available to all students at different points throughout the course.

- Reading ten forensic articles in magazines and writing a one-page summary of each article may earn you a bonus assessment grade. [Only once per quarter]
- Science fair projects may be performed for extra credit. The amount of credit will depend on the quality of the project.

On the Internet

Most assignments, notes, labs, and handouts are available on the internet. If you are missing something you need for this class, check the following web site:

www.mustangs.org/acedemics/science.htm

GRADING POLICIES

Grading Scale

This class will use the grading scale as approved by the site-based council.

Daily Participation: (25%)

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At the end of each school week, each student will be assigned a grade for his or her participation during the past week. Participation in class is defined as the following:

- Attendance of the entire period each and every day of the week-**NO TARDIES**-it is impossible to participate if you are not in attendance
- A good faith effort on each and every assignment while in class
- Presentation of make-up work to the instructor within a couple days of an excused absence
- Students who finish work during class time are expected to check their work, help other students, and review concepts related to the class
- Safe and honest participation in all class activities (lecture, labs, projects, demonstrations, etc.)

Assessment Grades: (75%)

Quizzes:

Occasionally there will be announced quizzes.

Science Class Portfolio:

Each student will be expected to keep an organized portfolio of class handouts, and assignments. The portfolio should contain an accurate table of contents and is expected to be neat and organized. A running list of assignments will be kept on a computer in the front of the classroom. In addition, a folder will be kept in the same area for returned papers to be placed in the portfolio. You should maintain the organization of your portfolio on a daily basis. This portfolio will be evaluated at the end of each 9-week period for an assessment grade.

Tests:

There will be 3 to 6 tests each grading period which may, or may not, be pencil-and-paper tests. **NO TEST GRADES WILL BE DROPPED.** However, a student may choose to take a second test on the same topic. This may only be accomplished by making an appointment with the instructor and may not be completed during the regular school day.

Labs:

There will be several labs during each grading period. Lab grades will count as assessment grades. Most labs will require a formal lab report in your lab book, which will count as an assessment grade each. Lab books will be graded near the end of each eight week period. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with their write-ups and labs.

Writing Assignments:

There will be several writing assignments each grading period. Some will be recorded as daily grades while others will be recorded as assessment grades. You will be informed at the time of the assignment.

Movie Journal:

Approximately one day a week will be devoted to a video and discussion of a certain crime of a certain criminal. You will be expected to keep a few notes (about a page) and a journal in your lab book about each video.

Movie/Book Write-ups:

Each grading period you will be expected to watch at least two movies, two television shows, or read a book related to forensic chemistry and write a report about each. You will receive specific instructions on what these reports should contain.

Final:

A comprehensive final will be given to all students. The final assessment will comprise 20% of your grade for the class.