

Lassiter High School

Reaching Excellence and Climbing Higher

Science Department

2019-2020



COURSE TITLE: Forensic Science

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Courtney Hinkson

EMAIL: courtney.hinkson@cobbk12.org

WEBSITE: <http://hinksonforensicscience.weebly.com/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces crime investigation techniques and tools; analysis, operation, and function of a laboratory; application of scientific concepts; instrumentation and microscopy; and the use of physical evidence. The class examines the utilization of scientific principles at crime scenes in areas such as DNA, hair and fibers, fingerprinting, toxicology, and a variety of other biological, chemical, and physical science applications. This course will primarily take a hands-on approach and some outside research will be required. In Forensic Science, students will apply the principals and techniques of science to analyze crime science evidence as well as case studies on criminal cases (real world application). Emphasis will be placed on laboratory techniques, scientific inquiry, speaking and writing skills, as well as aspects of the criminal justice system and the admissibility of evidence. Being familiar with human genetics and chemistry is expected. Please note that this class will be dealing with some mature content related to actual and simulated crimes and crime scenes. While the course has been restricted to upperclassmen, it is expected that student behavior will reflect respect for life, even after death, especially when brought about in an untimely and unnatural way.

GRADING POLICY:	Daily Work	10%
	Lab Reports/ Small Projects	30%
	Test/ Major Projects	45%
	Final Exam	15%

Grades will be entered Synergy as soon as it is graded. Lab Reports AND Projects takes a few extra days to grade.

TEXTBOOK: Forensic Science: An Introduction, 3e, Saferstein (Pearson)

VIDEOS: Episodes from CSI (all), Bones, Catching Killers, Death Row Stores, Cold Cases, Forensic Files, and other forensic science related TV shows will be shown. We may occasionally view other curriculum-related movies or movie clips. Some many exceed a PG-13 rating should there be a corpse or autopsy that is being shown. Your signature on this syllabus indicates permission for your student to view these movies and shows.

TESTS: Test days are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Tests will contain multiple choice, free response, fill-in-the-blank, and lab practical questions. Absent students will take a different version/format of the test.

LABS: Each student will be assigned a lab group to work in. Lab groups are subject to change. Please be aware than any infraction of safety rules will result in a dismissal from the lab and a zero on that activity. Please dress appropriately, respect others, and listen carefully to instruction. **Closed toe shoes and goggles are required for ALL labs.** If you are absent on the day of a lab, you will need to make-up the lab. Lab make-ups will either be in person or you need to arrange a time with me to view a video of another lab group doing the lab. You will still be responsible for completing a lab report for all make-up labs. The format of the make-up lab will be determined by the teacher.

HOMEWORK: Any activities not completed in class will be expected to be completed as homework. Outside reading, research, and independent study of notes will be expected!

QUIZZES: Quizzes may be given throughout a unit. They may be announced or unannounced.

PROJECTS: Projects may be assigned during a unit. Projects will vary in nature from PowerPoint presentations, models, writing assignments, poster making, etc. The difficulty and work required for a major will determine whether it will count as a major or minor project.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Notebook to keep yourself organized
- Ziplock Bags
- Pencils and black/blue pens
- Non-graphing Calculator

ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP POLICY: A student who is present and participates is more likely to be successful; however, if a student is absent, he/she has one day for each day of excused absence plus one day to make up the work. Students are responsible for obtaining the make-up work from the blog and the file folder. A student with an unexcused absence may ask for assignments and may choose to complete them in order to keep up with the class; however, the teacher is under no obligation to grade the work. **If you are absent on the day prior to the test (also known as the “review day”) you will be required to make-up the test on the regularly scheduled day.**

LATE WORK POLICY: Late work **WILL NOT** be accepted for any reason. Work assigned is always turned in at the beginning of class or when indicated by the teacher. Work left in the locker and not brought to class will be considered late.

TARDY POLICY: To avoid being counted tardy, students must be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. You will be required to obtain a tardy pass through the late arrival system (LAS) to enter the room if you arrive after the bell for 1st period. Students will be referred to an administrator after THREE unexcused tardies. See handbook for the appropriate consequences, which may include administrative detention, Saturday school, ISS and loss of parking privileges.

EXTRA HELP: I am available for extra help by appointment

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: *In addition to **administration**, the **parents** of a student who has been involved in cheating will be notified and the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment or evaluation period, and a grade of U in conduct.* For the Lassiter Science Department, cheating is defined as, *but is not limited to*, the following acts:

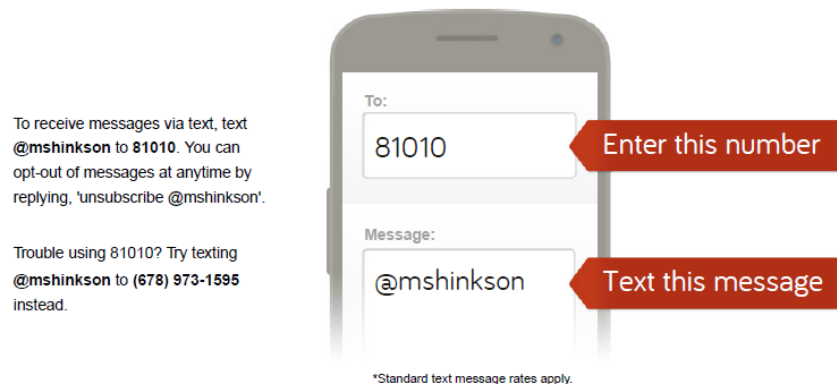
- Copying anyone’s answers to questions, lab activities, study guides, classwork or homework assignments (this also applies to other teachers reporting copying being done in their classrooms on similar assignments).
- Looking onto another student’s paper or any resources during a test or quiz.
- Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without the teacher's permission.
- Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected. ***Be certain that individual lab reports, even when performed as a group, are written in your own words.***
- Taking any information verbatim from any source, including the Internet, without giving proper credit to the author, or rearranging the order of words and/or changing some words as written by the author and claiming the work as his or her own, i.e., plagiarism.
- Using external resources such as web sites or apps to complete an assignment or assessment unless specifically permitted by the teacher.
- Taking pictures of assignments or assessments without the consent of the teacher.
- Students displaying or using cell phones or any other technology devices during tests and/or quizzes will be referred to administration, and will be given a zero for that test or quiz with NO opportunity to make up those points.

CLASSROOM POLICY: Come to class prepared and on time. Each student is expected to show RESPECT to other students and the teacher. Labs require each student to behave in a RESPONSIBLE manner to ensure the safety of all.

TOPICS COVERED (but not limited to the following): Crime-Scene Investigation, Evidence Collection, Study of Hair, Textiles and Fibers, Drug Identification and Toxicology, Pollen and Spore Examination, Fingerprints, DNA Fingerprinting, Blood and Blood Spatter, Handwriting Analysis, Forgery and Counterfeiting, Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause and Time, Forensic Geologist, Entomology, Forensic Anthropology, Anatomy, Cast and Impressions, Tool Marks, Ballistics, Arson, and Criminal Profiling.

Text Message Reminder System

I will be using an anonymous reminder website as a classroom tool (called Remind 101). This website allows me to send text messages to students and parents about upcoming assignments, quizzes, or tests. It also allows me to notify students of any changes that might occur before the next day's class. This is an **anonymous system**, so I do not have access to you or your child's cell phone number and vice versa. Your students have enrolled through this program during class, but I would like for YOU (parents/guardians) to enroll your cell phone number (or email if you prefer) as well! To do so, please follow these instructions...



You will receive a message asking for your name... please respond with your first and last name only (text messaging rates apply).

Technology in the Classroom

Some days in this course will be designated as BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) days. I encourage all students to bring their smart devices to Biology with the understanding they are to be used only during the appropriate times. Smart phones, tablets, etc will be used in class for viewing notes, researching information, formative assessments, class reviews, and others. On days were are not using technology, students will be asked to put their devices in a designated location in this classroom. This limits distractions and helps students learn the appropriate use a technology.

When students are absent for class or simply looking to review, lecture videos have been placed on the website. By recording my lectures, students will have greater control over how they review. They can pause, take notes, or repeat/review any portion of the lecture at any time.

These lecture videos will be posted to the blog so it is imperative that both you and your student check this consistently throughout the semester. I post the week's schedule every Sunday and then edit it as things change throughout the week.

As always, I can be reached most easily via email. Please feel free to contact me with whatever questions or concerns you may have.

courteney.hinkson@cobbk12.org

Please note, I do not always check my email after I leave school in the afternoon. Please take this into consideration if you are emailing with an urgent matter.

SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
(only if virtual acknowledgment doesn't work)

TEACHER: Ms. Courteney Hinkson

COURSE: Forensics

YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ I have read and understand the academic integrity policy.
- ◆ I have reviewed the class syllabus and understand the grading policy.
- ◆ I give permission for my child to view G, PG or PG13 movies if they are related to the curriculum of the class.
- ◆ I give permission for my child to read the class parallel readings noted in the syllabus.
- ◆ I am willing to be contacted by email.
- ◆ I have access to the internet and will access the Synergy parent feature (once it is available) to check on my child's progress. I understand that teachers will make every effort to post grades within 2 weeks of accepting the assignment, but that posting of grades for larger papers and projects may extend beyond the 2 week timeframe.

** Are there any concerns or medical issues that the teacher should be aware about your student?

Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____
(Please print.)

(Student's Signature)

(Parent's Signature)

(Student's E-mail—*optional but encouraged*)

(Parent's E-mail)

(Parent Phone Number: HOME)

(Parent Phone Number: WORK/CELL)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH BOTH SIGNATURES BY Monday, August 5th

Student Lab Safety Contract

I will:

1. Follow all instructions given by the teacher (including all required safety rules on the FLINN Safety Contract agreement).
2. Read directions thoroughly before beginning a lab investigation.
3. Protect eyes, face, hands, and body while conducting a lab investigation.
4. Review all safety guidelines indicated in each lab before beginning.
5. Know the location of first aid and firefighting equipment.
6. Conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times in a lab situation.

I, _____, (print name) have read and agree to abide by the safety regulations as set forth above and also any additional printed or verbal safety instructions provided by the teacher and/or district. I further agree to follow all other written/verbal instructions given in class. If I do not follow the safety instructions, I will be removed from the lab and receive a grade of zero on that lab. My parents will be contacted, and, depending on the severity of the infraction, an administrative referral may be written.

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____