

Forensic Science
2026-2027 Course Syllabus
Veterans High School

Name: Mrs. Philius
Email: naketa.philius@hcbe.net
Tutoring: Fridays 3:00-4:00 PM

Room: 1406
Phone: 478-218-7537

Course Description:

The Forensic Science curriculum is designed to build upon science concepts and to apply science to the investigation of crime scenes. Students will learn the scientific protocols for analyzing a crime scene, how to use chemical and physical separation methods to isolate and identify materials, how to analyze both biological evidence and the criminal use of tools, including impressions from firearms, tool marks, arson, and explosive evidence.

Course Standards	
SFS1	Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to properly conduct a forensic investigation of a crime scene.
SFS2	Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information on various scientific techniques to analyze physical, trace, and digital evidence.
SFS3	Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information relating to biological evidence in forensic investigations.
SFS4	Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze the role of impression evidence in order to make a physical match examination.
SB5	Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to Medicolegal Death Investigations.

Textbook:

Forensic Science Fundamentals & Investigations by Bertino & Bertino, National Geographic Learning | South-Western Cengage Learning, 2nd Edition. We will maintain a class set of textbooks.

Required Instructional Materials and Supplies

- Pencil
- Pen
- Highlighter
- Colored pencils
- Glue stick
- Binder
- Scientific Calculator
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Non-Latex Gloves
- Box of Tissue
- Box of Ziploc bags (any size)
- Astrobrights paper or cardstock

Content:

- Forensic Fundamentals
- Impression Evidence
- Physical, Trace, and Digital Evidence
- Biological Evidence
- Medicolegal Death Investigations

Grading System

- Major assessments: Tests, major projects (45%)
- Minor assessments: Quizzes, labs, minor projects/activities (20%)
- Daily work: Classwork, homework (15%)
- Final assessment: 20%

This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester. There is no standardized milestone.

Late Work:

For students to become proficient with the terminology and concepts of forensic science, they will participate in daily activities and assignments that introduce them to new concepts or enrich topics previously covered. Students are expected to complete assignments on time. **Late work will generally not be accepted; however, exceptions will be considered through the end of the unit at teacher discretion. Students must complete a late work request form for consideration.**

Makeup/Mastery:

Should a student miss school on the day that an assignment is due, the assignment will be due on the day that the student returns to school. Any assignments distributed on the day of the absence will be due within five school days. All tests are announced in advance. **Being absent on the day before a test does not excuse the student from taking the test.**

Review materials will be posted to Canvas to ensure that all students have access.

Each student may choose to retake two major assessments per semester, after completing tutoring/corrections. When a student retakes an assessment, the grade on the retake will be recorded in the grade book. Students have up to two weeks after an assessment is returned to retake the assessment provided this allows sufficient time for grading (i.e. end of the semester). Cheating, plagiarism, and any form of academic dishonesty is seen as a disciplinary issue. Cheating will not absolve students of the responsibility of completing the required assessment. Students will receive a temporary grade of zero and must complete an alternate assessment during a tutoring session with the instructor. **Students must schedule the retake with the teacher in advance. Retakes will not be given during tutoring sessions.**

Student Chromebooks:

Students are issued a district-provided Chromebook for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning. Chromebook use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher.

Apptegy:

HCSD has an app called Apptegy that is available as a method of communication. It may be used to send announcements and/or reminders throughout the school year. If I am ever unresponsive on the app, please email me. Email is the best mode of individual communication with me.

Personal Devices:

Personal devices of any kind (phones, smart watches, earbuds, smart glasses, etc.) are not allowed during class; all devices should be turned off and placed in a book bag. Any devices that are visible and/or being used will be turned into the office.

Classroom Behavior:

1. **Be punctual.** As a student at Veterans High School, you have a responsibility to be seated in class and ready to work when the bell rings.
2. **Be prepared.** Bring homework and any supplies that you need to class with you so that you can make the most of your learning opportunities. You should always bring your charged Chromebook to class. We use them often.
3. **Be courteous.** Treat your fellow classmates and your teacher with respect. Maintain a positive attitude and use school appropriate language at all times.
4. **Be responsible.** Take care of school property. Treat classroom and lab equipment carefully.
5. **Be alert.** You cannot learn while you are sleeping. Stay awake with your head off the tables and your mind focused on science.
6. **Be productive.** Use your class time wisely. Poor work habits usually result in lower grades and more stress for you when it counts.
7. **All school rules will be enforced as outlined in the student handbook.** Yes, this includes rules pertaining to phones, gum, food, or drink (except water) as well as the guidelines for appropriate attire.

Hall Pass Policy:

Students are expected to attend and participate in class from bell to bell. Errands and bathroom visits should be taken care of between classes. Students are only excused from class time with teacher or administrative permission. Leaving the classroom without permission is considered skipping. If there is a true emergency, communication with the teacher is key.

Student and Parent Confirmation

I have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations for Forensic Science taught by Mrs. Philius.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Parent's Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

What is your preferred method of direct contact?

☐ Text

☐ Call

☐ Email

☐ Letter/Note

Does your student use the testing lab for quizzes or tests?

☐ Yes, for both tests and quizzes

☐ No

☐ Yes, for tests only

Questions? _____

Please use the space below for any comments or concerns.

What I Wish My Child's Teacher Knew...

ychu