

2023 Forensic Science Semester 1

Instructor info:

Mr. J. Foti

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Course description: Students will obtain a basic understanding of the branches of forensic science and its applications in society. They will utilize case studies to gain knowledge of forensic techniques and terminology, and collect and categorize evidence and data. Students will use observations and evidence to analyze crime scenarios and create comprehensive reports. The class will be exposed to careers related to forensic science (detective, arson investigator, print specialist, medical examiner) and learn from and make connections with community members. The course is designed to promote collaboration and develop a student's ability to listen intently and speak confidently. Intellectual curiosity and personal integrity will be enhanced through successful completion of this course.

Expectations:

- 1) Arrive to class on time each day.
- 2) Be prepared to engage in class discussions. This includes keeping your phones and ear buds away, as well as not playing games on your chromebook.
- 3) Try your best! Please let me know if you have ANY questions!

Grading: Course grades will be based on a percentage based system. In other words each category will be worth a certain percentage of the overall grade. The categories and percentages are as follows:

Assignment completion: 5% - Completion of assignments is vital to the successful completion of this course. Your completion grade is where late points will be deducted in the event of a late assignment. You will lose one point for each week the assignment is late.

In class assignments: 15% - In class assignments will include a variety of items. Some items may include surveys, questions answered in class, small research items, and/or group discussions.

Final Project: 20% - Towards the end of the semester, you will complete a project summarizing all you learned during this course.

Labs: 30% - There will be several labs throughout this to help supplement your understanding of forensics. In most cases, the assignments will be given enough time to complete in class, but there may be times where you will have to complete the assignment at home.

Exams: 35% - Exams will be given at the completion of a unit.

Tentative Unit Schedule (this is subject to change):

- 1) History of Forensics
- 2) The Crime Scene
- 3) Document analysis
- 4) Hair and fibers
- 5) Impressions
- 6) Fingerprints
- 7) Glass, paint, and soil
- 8) Blood
- 9) Toxicology
- 10) Pathology
- 11) Ballistics
- 12) Arson

Classroom rules/expectations:

- 1) Cell phone policy:
 - a) Cell phones are **not** permitted to be out during class time, **UNLESS** they are specifically being used for a lab.
 - b) If a student is using a phone in violation of this policy, a warning will be given. After three warnings on any given day, an email will be sent home. If after three emails no change has been made, a referral will be written. This is done on a rolling basis, so an email will be sent after every three warnings, and a referral after every three emails. The warning count “refreshes” each day.
 - c) I reserve the right to confiscate phones in accordance with the NPCSD code of conduct and New Paltz High School student handbook.
- 2) Chromebooks: Chromebooks may be used to take notes, and will be used to collect lab data, answer questions, etc. Students are not permitted to use the chromebook outside of these purposes. If a student is seen using a chromebook out of compliance with this policy, emails will be sent home, and if the behavior continues, a referral will be written. The frequency of emails and referrals will follow the cell phone policy.
- 3) Food/ drink:
 - a) Food is not permitted to be consumed in the classroom. If the student needs to eat, they may step out into the hallway to eat quickly, with permission from the teacher.
 - b) Drinks are allowed as long as the top can be covered with a lid.