



Forensic Science and Accelerated Forensic Science

Mrs. Kristen Jernigan
kjernigan@ems-isd.net

Conference Period: 12:15-1:00 PM

Tutoring Opportunities: before or after school, by appointment

Class Materials:

- Normal school supplies, especially 3-ring binder for handouts
- Scientific calculator (or app on phone)
- Canvas
- Kahoot
- Remind

If a student needs a device outside of school hours, they may be checked out on their home campus.

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

Forensic Science is a course that uses a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse, neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprint analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options in forensic science.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

Discover, document, collect, package, and evaluate forensic evidence of many kinds, including fingerprints, hair, fiber, blood, impressions, and more. This is a survey course for the whole field of forensics, so students will be able to describe many forensic disciplines and demonstrate basic skills in most fields. Students will be able to support conclusions with facts and serve on a jury with a good knowledge base about forensic methods

A parent or guardian will be required to sign a permission slip giving approval to view materials and discuss cases and evidence that are of a sensitive nature and not normally “school appropriate,” but which fulfill the TEKS for this course. All such topics will be handled in a mature and respectful way.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Each six weeks will be averaged together to create the semester grade.
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments and quizzes. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

- If students work diligently and use time wisely, they will not have very much homework to do outside of class. There will be research projects for presentations every six weeks that may require additional work outside of class and students will be expected to study to make sure they understand the material. Students may have assignments to do online, in Canvas, for example, and it is helpful if they have access to internet, but most students are able to complete these tasks in class. It is expected that students are on-task, engaged, responsible and respectful during class. Students should not be on their phones during instruction, labs, or videos unless directed by the teacher for an app-based activity. CANVAS, TEAMS, Microsoft 365, Kahoot! and other websites will be used as the digital tools to support the learning. Students will find learning materials on CANVAS organized into modules by week. There will be a information, PowerPoints, notes, assignments and more content inside the modules. Tests will be taken on CANVAS and are due at the end of the class period scheduled for the test. (If you are absent, you will be allowed to make up a test. If you are present in class, you must complete the test during class. You are not allowed to “take it home” and finish it later.) Lessons may be provided by the teacher.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

The HCTC Tardy Policy

- 1 Tardy—Conversation with teacher
- 2 Tardies—Conversation with student to develop an intervention plan

- 3 Tardies—Email or phone call to parent to review the intervention plan
- 4+ Tardies—Email or phone call to parent and notification to home campus team (AP and counselor)

When you are absent, you have the number of days absent plus one school day to turn in make-up work. For example, if work is assigned Friday when you are absent, you have until Tuesday to turn it in. If work is due Friday when you are absent, it is due on Monday when you return to school.

Per the Grading and Reporting Handbook, penalties for late work are as follows:

1 day late = 85% of score

2 days late = 70% of score

3 days late = 60% of score After 3 days late = ZERO

If you are absent, you should look on CANVAS to find the assignments for the day. If you are absent on a lab day, there will often be a make-up version of the lab that you can do from home and submit in CANVAS. I generally accept assignments via email or CANVAS, but you will likely find it more convenient to keep up with if you use CANVAS.

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to be respectful, follow safety rules, and fully engage in class activities. Students must abide by all EMS ISD policies and the HCTC Handbook. Students must keep phones put away except when authorized for learning activities.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

We will begin the year with learning types of evidence and how to evaluate the evidentiary value of each type as well as how basic laws govern forensic investigations. The rest of the year will be on crime scene investigation and exploration of various types of physical evidence (fingerprints, hair, blood, DNA, trace evidence, human remains, etc....).

Academic Integrity: Update from GRH

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless of if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.