



Deer Valley Unified School District

Sandra Day O'Connor High School

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Course	FORENSIC SCIENCE	E-mail:	jonathan.poe@dvUSD.org
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Room:	733	Web Page/Canvas Link:	dvUSD.instructure.com

COURSE MISSION STATEMENT:

TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN ENFORCING LAWS AND ENSURING JUSTICE.

Course Description from the District Academic Planning Guide

This lab course concentrates on the application of science to civil and criminal laws that are enforced by law enforcement agencies in a criminal justice system. Labs are designed to collect and analyze evidence. **Some material presented in this class is of a sensitive nature and may be difficult for some individuals. Student discretion is advised.**

Semester 1 Units of Study

1. Criminal Justice and the Law
2. Introduction to Forensic Science
3. Types of Evidence
4. Processing the Crime Scene
5. Fingerprints
6. Hair
7. Fibers
8. Drugs
9. Document/Handwriting Analysis

Semester 2 Units of Study

1. Toxicology: Poisons and Alcohol
2. Soil
3. Glass
4. Blood
5. DNA
6. Death Investigations
7. Human Remains
8. Impressions (tool marks)
9. Firearms

Grading Policy

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = below 60%

Grades are cumulative for each semester. The grade book categories are as follows:

1. **TESTS/QUIZZES/PROJECTS** = 40% (assessments)
 2. **LABS** = 25% (also considered assessments)
 3. **ASSIGNMENTS/PARTICIPATION** = 15% (any other graded tasks)
 4. **FINAL EXAMS** = 20%
- (PERFORMANCE TASK = 10% & MULTIPLE CHOICE FINAL EXAM = 10%)

Late Work Policy: O'Connor High School's shared belief is that a student's grade reflects their knowledge based on a set of standards and/or essential skills. Students must submit work in order for teachers to assess student learning. If a student does not submit an assignment, the teacher has no evidence to evaluate a student's knowledge or skills.

At O'Connor High School, a student will not receive a late penalty (e.g. deduction of points) if the work is submitted **within two weeks** of its original due date. Late work will not be accepted after those two weeks.

Re-take/Re-assessment Procedure: All students will have the opportunity to improve their learning. At O'Connor, we instill in our students the value of learning from our mistakes and failures. We recognize and reward hard work, grit, and determination.

All students will have the opportunity to gain new learning through remediation, intervention, and/or re-learning. After this re-learning has occurred, the student may re-assess the standard(s) and will receive the higher of the two scores. All students can learn. Not all students learn at the same pace.

Required Materials:

- **iPad WITH CHARGER**
- **Pencils and pens**
- **Loose-leaf Lined Paper**
- **Pocket folder to keep assignments you are currently working on & graded work that is returned to you**
- **A notebook (composition, spiral, etc.) for recording notes**

Powerschool Access

The Powerschools site allows parents/guardians and students to access the student's grades, attendance, and other information. If you need your access information, please stop by the front desk during business hours. You will need a photo I.D. The web address is: ps.dvusd.org/public

Make-Up Work:

The make-up work can be found on Canvas (dvusd.instructure.com).

Upon return to class after an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/test assigned during his/her absence regardless of the number of days absent. For example, if a student is absent on Thursday and Friday, he/she will have Monday and Tuesday of the following week to make up work and must turn in the work that was assigned during the days absent on Wednesday. Teachers may choose to schedule an appointment with the student to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work.

Coursework and assessments assigned prior to the absence(s) may still be due on the date assigned or due on the first day that the student returns to class.

Class work missed as a result of an unexcused absence will result in a zero for that day. This includes tests, quizzes, labs, projects, participation points, etc. done that day.

Make-up work for extended absences may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Long Term Project Policy

Long term projects are due on the date and time assigned, as defined in writing in advance by the teacher. **NO EXCEPTIONS. THIS SUPERSEDES THE MAKE-UP POLICY.** If the student is absent or the class does not meet that day, the **PROJECT IS STILL DUE ON THE DAY ASSIGNED.**

Electronic Device Use

Technology (cell phones, iPods, hand-held devices, etc.) use in the classroom is intended to **enhance** the learning environment for all students; however, any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment, promotes dishonesty or illegal activities, is prohibited. If the instructor determines that the use of technology is a distraction to the learning process, either of the student using the technology or to those around him/her, the student may, at the discretion of the teacher, be asked to discontinue the use of technology in the classroom.

Personal Electronic Device Use:

Personal Electronic Devices include cell phones, iPods, other mp3 players and similar technology devices **used for entertainment and communication/social media**. Students are expected to refrain from the use of electronic devices for personal entertainment and/or communication (i.e email, instagram, facebook, etc.) during instructional time (as determined by the teacher or classroom designee). While students may freely use these devices before and after school, during passing period, and at lunch- the teacher will limit the use of personal devices and for which purposes during class to ensure that *all students are focused and ready to learn*.

Use of Electronic Devices to Facilitate Learning:

Sandra Day O'Connor High School will begin to integrate the use of tablets, laptops and smart phones **as a learning tool** in the classroom. Once the technology tools are added to the classroom for learning, the classroom teacher will inform students as to when they may use their device and for which purposes. Students must adhere to their teacher's guidelines for use and appropriate times for use. Any student who violates the teacher's guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.

Please note- students may not access their personal devices, whether for entertainment or learning, if the teacher has stated that the classroom activities at that time do not warrant use. For example, during testing or assessments.

Adherence to the O'Connor Academic Integrity Code

All students enrolled in **Forensic Science** will adhere to the framework and guidelines set forth in the O'Connor High School Academic Integrity Code. Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated. **The purpose of this code is to promote a positive learning environment for all involved.** As humans, we will make mistakes as we grow. It is understood that we can learn from those mistakes and become better individuals in the future. Any student who violates this code will be referred to the Students Rights and Responsibilities handbook and assignment of appropriate consequences.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Cheating: In cheating, a student is taking the work of another, on any assignment, and claiming it as his/her own. At SDOHS cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Copying and/or offering homework verbally, in written form, or by electronic means from/to another student.
- Copying and/or offering questions and/or answers on tests or quizzes verbally, in written form, or by electronic means from/to another student.
- Pressuring other students to copy and/or offer homework, answers and/or questions on tests or quizzes verbally, in written form or by electronic means.
- Bringing in and using unauthorized information during class time, including information stored in any electronic device.
- Offering or receiving information under circumstances in which information is not to be shared.
- Having anyone, including parents or tutors, complete assignments and submitting the work as one's own.
- Presenting collaborative work as independent work and independent work as collaborative. (In group work, one person should not and will not bear the burden for the entire group assignment.)
- Copying answers from answer guides in texts.
- Fabricating data, information, or sources. Presenting made up material as authentic.

Plagiarism: The act of plagiarism may include direct copying, but it may also be more complex than verbatim repetition. A student, in preparing a project for a class, will have plagiarized if he/she has taken information from sources without citing the sources that have been used. Plagiarized material may appear in a student's paper as word-for-word copying, a summation, or a paraphrase of another's ideas. A student has plagiarized whether the material from another source has been taken in whole or in part. In effect, by not naming the source, the student is claiming the work of another as his/hers. At SDOHS plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting images and/or documents in whole or in part from the Internet without citation of the source(s).
- Copying another's work.
- Using another's ideas without proper citations.
- Incorporating portions of another's writing within the context of your own work.
- Failing to acknowledge a source of information.
- Using "unique" phrases without citations.
- Using graphics, charts, diagrams, or illustrations without citations.
- Using a translator (either in-person or on-line) without proper citations

Plagiarism and/or Cheating will result in disciplinary actions and a 0%, with no option to redo/retake. - **no exceptions.**

Loss of Credit Due to Absences

Upon reaching 5 unexcused absences or a combination of 12 unexcused and/or excused absences, a student may **lose credit** in any given class.

Any student may be placed on an Attendance Contract upon accumulating multiple excused and unexcused absences. Any student with excessive absences may:

1. Lose credit in one or more classes.
2. Lose parking privileges.

Communication

Please contact the teacher for any student concerns. It is crucial that teachers, parents, and students maintain open lines of communication in order to ensure the best support for student success. Contact information is provided at the top of the first page of this syllabus.

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. 623.445.5000.

I have read the Course Syllabus and Guidelines.

Student Name (Printed) _____ **Class Hour** _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____