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**Department:  Science**



**Spring Semester 2019**

**COURSE TITLE: Forensic Science**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kara Harris

**EMAIL**: kara.harris@cobbk12.org

**PHONE:** 770-819-2521 Ext. 1403

**CLASSROOM BLOG**: <http://www.mysciteacher.com>

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://www.cobbk12.org/Pebblebrook/>

**PHS SCHOOL VISION:** Empowering Students to Become Productive Members of a Global Community

**PHS SCHOOL MISSION:** Modeling and Developing Intellectual, Physical and Emotional Behaviors that Lead to Success for All

**KEY ACTIONS:**

* Increase the Graduation Rate
* Increase rigor and student engagement (Project-based learning environment)
* Increase community and parental involvement

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Forensic Science is an accelerated course in learning the scientific protocols for analyzing a crime scene, how to use chemical and physical separation methods to isolate and identify materials, how to analyze biological evidence and the criminal use of tools, including impressions from firearms, tool marks, arson, and explosive evidence.

**KEY STANDARDS:**

[**https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/GeorgiaPerformanceStandards/ForensicScience.pdf**](https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/GeorgiaPerformanceStandards/ForensicScience.pdf)

**TEXTBOOK/SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:**

Our main textbook for the course is Forensic Science Fundamentals & Investigations. Bertino, Southwestern publishing, Cengage learning (2008). There will be a class set to work from in the classroom.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**:

1. 1.5 – 2 inch 3-ring binder with loose paper
2. Pens and pencils
3. Calculator

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

**Work Ethic:**

As the majority of grades for this class will involve labs and activities, it is important that each student answer questions in their own words and actively participate in each lab/activity, not just copy down someone else’s answers. Tests will include practical application portions where the student will be required to go into the lab by themselves and do the work on their own. Any student caught copying work they did not do will be given a zero for that assignment and will not be allowed to make up that grade.

**Class Rules:**

* Be in your seat when the late bell rings.
* Be responsible.
* Be thoughtful.
* Don’t waste class time, work smart.
* Keep the room clean.
* Put your phone away.

**CURRICULUM STANDARD WIEGHTS**

SFS1 Recognizing and Classifying Evidence 10%

SFS2 Analyzing Physical and Trace Evidence 25%

SFS5 Medicolegal Death Investigations 15%

SFS3 Drugs, Toxicology, Serology, and DNA 15%

SFS4 Ballistics, Impressions, Tool Marks, and Arson 15%

Cumulative Final Exam 20%

**GRADING SCALE:**

A - 100-90% Assignment Values

B - 89-80% Classwork/Homework 50 points total

C - 79-74% Projects & Labs 50 points

D – 70-73% Tests & Major Crime Scenes 100 points

F - 69-Below

**SYNERGY ACCESS TO GRADES:**

It is strongly encouraged that you keep your Synergy login information in a safe place and that you have access to the information when needed. Parents should contact the Main Office (770.819.2521).

Please note that when you are viewing grades in Synergy that a blank grade column for your child has no effect on their grade. If the space is blank, then your student may not have turned in that assignment due to absence or the teacher may not have entered grades for that assignment at that time. An “X” means that the student is exempt from an assignment at the discretion of the teacher.

**FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION:**

If students meet the criteria below, they may exempt up to 2 final exams per semester. Policies do not apply to magnet or A.P. classes.

* Course grade must be 80% or higher in the requested course(s).
* No ISS / OSS for the requested semester.
* No more than 3 excused absences in **any** class during the requested semester.
* No unexcused absences in **any** class during the requested semester.
* No more than 3 unexcused tardies in **any** class during the requested semester.

**LATE WORK POLICY:** Late work will be accepted as long as it is turned in the next day after it is due. Late work will be graded at a value of 75% of the original assignments value.

Students with special circumstances should work with teachers to determine alternate individualized due dates when appropriate. Extensions to original due dates are subject to teacher discretion. The Pebblebrook High School Late Work Policy should not be used to compromise the following sound educational practices:

* Students are expected to take tests, make classroom presentations, and/or demonstrate mastery and competence through performances when they are scheduled. The Late Work Policy does not grant students an implied extension simply because they feel unprepared.
* The best educational practice is for students to complete work to the best of their ability and to submit this work on the due date. Additional interventions and consequences may be appropriate for students who are habitually late with assignments.
* Extensions for due dates should be requested in advance. Asking for an extension on or after the due date is not acceptable practice.

**UNIT ASSESSMENT RE-TEST STATEMENT:** Students who score 69% or lower on any unit assessment are allowed to re-take the assessment. The grade will not exceed a 70% for the unit assessment. The retake must be completed within one week. Please view the teacher’s blog for notification when the assessment will be administered.

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY:**

The policy for makeup work is in accordance with those in the student handbook. You are responsible for arranging to get assignments and notes and making up all assignments, labs and tests missed due to excused absence. Most work is already posted to the blog by unit. Please see me before or after class upon your return (don’t wait until I start class!) Labs must be made up must be completed **within one week**. Make-up tests must be scheduled according to the student handbook

**TARDY POLICY:**

To avoid being counted tardy, **students must be seated and ready for class when the bell rings**.  School policy states that students may receive detention, In-School Suspension, and Out-of-School Suspension for repeated tardies.  If you are tardy to class, you must sign in on the tardy sheet.

Tardies within the first 10 minutes of class

* 1st – 3rd unexcused tardy Warning
* 4th – 6th unexcused tardy 20 minute teacher detention
* 7th – 9th unexcused tardy 60 minute extended teacher detention
* 10th unexcused tardy Referral for 2 days ISS
* 11th or more unexcused tardy Referral for 3 days ISS

More than 15 minutes late to class? Teacher will write a referral for skipping

**EXTRA HELP:**

Students can come in after school on Tuesdayss and during the morning by appointment.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**:

As per the school’s policy, cell phones are not to be used during class time unless directed by the teacher for instructional purposes. Students will receive a discipline referral after one warning to put away any electronic device (unless the device is being used for instruction). Students are allowed to bring certain technologies to class (iPad, laptop, Kindle, etc.), but it should **NOT** interfere with the teaching or other’s learning.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Cheating is considered a serious matter.  Any student who is involved in cheating/plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the material, an unsatisfactory in conduct, and his/her parents will be notified.

For this course, cheating is defined as, but is not limited to, the following acts:

* Copying anyone's answers to questions, exercises, study guides, class work or homework assignments
* 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.
* Looking onto another student's paper 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.

**Note to Parents and Guardians:**

**Forensic science has been limited to upper-classmen only due to the maturity level necessary to discuss some of the material covered by this class. We will be watching Forensic Files, the First 48, Crime 360 and other forensic science shows that contain mature content. This is an academic elective and I expect the students to participate and complete assignments in a timely manner. We will be doing multiple labs and activities in each unit. If you have any concerns about your student participating in this class please feel free to call me at (770) 819-2521 ext 1403 or email at** **kara.harris@cobbk12.org****.**

**I have read and understand Mrs. Harris's expectations for students in Forensic Science.**

**Student Signature (Cursive here) Date**

**Student Email**

**Parent Name**

**Parent Signature Date**

**Parent email**

**Home phone**

**Parent Cell phone**

**Parent work phone**