

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
Forensic Science
Grade Level: 11-12

Length of Course: 40 weeks
Credits: 1
COURSE NO.: 03600

Prerequisites:

Passing of Earth Science Regents Exam and concurrent registration in a Living Environment course. Priority in scheduling will be given to seniors and then juniors.

Course Description and Instructional Processes:

The goal of this course is to help students better understand the multifaceted subject of Forensic Science. This lab-based course will enable students to learn techniques involved in collecting, processing and analyzing evidence through lecture and lab activities. Case studies will be explored, and crime scenes will be simulated to allow students to work together using techniques learned to determine the perpetrator of the crime.

Course Objectives:

1. Follow the history and development of Forensic Science.
2. Study the organization and services of a crime laboratory.
3. Explore legal considerations at a crime scene and learn how to properly process a crime scene.
4. Expand knowledge of possible career options in Forensic Science.
5. Understand the functions of the forensic scientist and forensic science services through the following:
 - Learn techniques to process and analyze physical evidence such as glass fragments, soil, organic or inorganic substances, hair, fibers and/or paint chips.
 - Study toxicology and how to collect, preserve and analyze drugs and poisons.
 - Learn how to collect, process and analyze DNA found at a crime scene.
 - Explore techniques involved in collecting and analyzing fingerprints, footprints and handwriting samples.
 - Study characteristics of blood and determine the origin and angle of impact through blood spatter analysis.
 - Learn how to reproduce and analyze bite marks.
 - Explore the use of dogs in police work.