

# Hillsboro High School

## Forensics I and II Mr. S. C. Harms

**Welcome to Forensic Science!** This course is designed to meet the needs of students that are considering a science-related field or just want to take a fun science course! While this course is designed to challenge you as a student, you will hopefully leave with a solid Forensic Science foundation. Be prepared to think critically, analyze concepts, and apply information to the world around you. With that being said, I will do my best to help you succeed in this class, but it will be your responsibility to reach out if/when you need it. Be prepared to work hard and have fun doing it.

### Course Description:

This course sequence will be broken up as follows:

#### Forensics I:

Unit 1 – Intro to Forensics Part 1

Unit 2 – Intro to Forensics Part 2

Unit 3 – Items of Interest and Forensic Evidence Part 1

#### Forensics II:

Unit 4 – Items of Interest and Forensic Evidence Part 2

Unit 5 – The Body as Evidence Part 1

Unit 6 – The Body as Evidence Part 2

### Materials:

Each day, I ask you to bring the following items to class with you:

- Fully charged iPad
- 1.5-inch binder
- Loose-leaf paper
- Scientific calculator – this is a must!
- Supply of pens and/or pencils

### Graded Work:

- 1) Tests (40%)- Each test will cover material from labs, practice work and notes. All unit assessments will be announced no later than one week prior to said exam. The test questions will generally be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Tests are my property, and while I hand back tests and review mistakes, I will recollect the tests prior to you exiting that day. Failure to resubmit your test will result in a zero. **You must finish all tests in one setting (i.e., you may not start at one time and finish at another), and you will generally have 50-60 minutes to complete an exam. Cell phones, Air Pods, and smart watches will be collected at the beginning of the period.**
- 2) Quizzes (15%)- Within each unit, there will be a series of quizzes over the various topics. Each quiz will be announced no later than the class period prior, and will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and/or essay. **You must finish all quizzes in one setting in the allotted time frame (i.e., you may not start at one time and finish at another, and each quiz has a set time allotted based upon length and difficulty).**
- 3) Labs/Projects (35%)- Labs and projects supplement instruction to help you understand the concepts taught in class. There will be a few formal presentations in each semester (more information on this later).
- 4) Practice Work/Participation (10%)- Practice work will be given as we complete topics for you to practice the skills necessary for successful completion of that unit. While I will try to answer questions about the practice work in class, due to time constrictions, it will be your responsibility to see me if you are struggling with a particular topic. Practice work will be recorded as completion (i.e., if effort is shown on it, points will be allotted). With that, actually try on this, as it helps prepare you for tests and quizzes.

### Class Procedures:

#### A. Make-Up Work

- a. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up all the work you missed. Please be diligent about making up the work as quickly as possible (**within 1-2 days, maximum**). The work you missed will be in the appropriately labeled absent folder and on Schoology, but if not, please check with me prior to class starting. This includes Do Now's and Exit Tickets.
- b. If you are absent **due to a school function** (i.e., extracurricular activities, field trips, etc.), you are expected to get your assignments from me **PRIOR** to your leave and complete them by the **due date**. It will be your responsibility to come in for any additional help as needed before/after school to get the work done on time.

# Hillsboro High School

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- c. You are responsible for getting any notes during the day(s) you are absent from other students in the class.
- d. If you miss a test, it must be made up within **three school days of your return**. Exceptions will only be made in extreme circumstances. **This must be done in a time other than during class!**
- B. Class Work Time
  - a. It is my goal to give you some time in class to work on assignments. With that, it will not always be feasible, as some lessons/activities take longer than others. As such, **Forensics time is for just that, Forensics**. You **will not** be allowed to work on homework from any other class until your work for mine is complete. Any homework from other classes that is out when you are given time to work on forensics will be confiscated. Repeated offenses will be subject to the expectation violations (outlined below).
- C. Late Work
  - a. **Any practice work/lab turned in late will receive a 10% reduction in grade for each day it is late. After five days, it will become a zero.**
- D. Hall Passes
  - a. No one will be allowed to leave during a test/quiz. Your test/quiz will be taken, and you will not be allowed to complete any more of it.
  - b. If you leave my room (unless you are signing out and leaving school), you **must** place your phone in the "Phone Hub" in order to leave.
- E. Food/Drink Policy
  - a. Food and drink will be permitted on non-lab days only.
  - b. No food/drink (including gum and candy) will be allowed in the lab. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a **zero** on said activity.
- F. Dismissal
  - a. Students should be in your seats until the end of class in order to be dismissed. I will dismiss the class, not the bell. **You will not be permitted to line up at the door before the end of the class.**
- G. Respect and Work Ethic
  - a. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your classroom. Do your best every single day. Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to start at the bell.
- H. Schoology
  - a. I will post due dates, notes, homework answer keys, quiz and test outlines/reminders, helpful hints/suggestions, and various other announcements on Schoology, so make sure to check there **every day!**
  - b. You can also utilize Schoology to see what you missed on a day when you are gone. Please do this **prior to** emailing me.
- I. Cell Phones
  - a. All electronic devices should be put on silent and placed in your bookbag prior to entering the classroom/lab. It must remain there for the duration of class.
  - b. Starting this school year, if you are caught with your phone at any time in the classroom or lab, you will earn a referral (this is a school board policy).
  - c. All cell phones, Apple/Smart Watches, and Air Pods will be placed on front table prior to all tests. Failure to do so will result in a **zero** on said exam. No exceptions!
- J. Corrections on Summative Assessments
  - a. You may do test corrections on all summative assessments in my class (besides the semester final exams). You will use a loose-leaf piece of paper and follow the format outlined on Schoology. Students can increase their score by up to ten percent. There are no corrections on quizzes or labs (this only applies to unit exams).
- K. Group Projects
  - a. For all group projects, you have the option to do the assignment by yourself. With that, you must complete the same assignment as you would if you choose to be in a group. If you have issues with your group, choose different group members. It is vital for you to read documents fully (email me if you catch this for three bonus points on the first lab). I do not choose your groups; thus, if you have problems with other individuals, you need to work through it or handle it yourself.
- L. Need Extra Assistance?
  - a. I strongly recommend you reach out for assistance when you need it. As such, I will be available most days prior to school for this between 7:20 - 7:50. If you need to meet after school, I ask that you please make the necessary arrangements (via email) in advance to ensure that I can stay.

# Hillsboro High School

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## General Template for Due Dates

Assignment Type	Due Date
Practice Work	Each Friday (remaining for a unit due the day before exam)
Laboratory Work	One to two school days after completion of lab experimentation
Do Nows/Exit Tickets	Each day after completion
Projects/Presentations/Lab Reports	Varies based upon magnitude and complexity

## Expectation Violations:

- First Offense: Verbal discussion of offense
- Second Offense: Phone call home to parents/coach
- Third Offense: Removal from classroom to office
  - Any time an offense results in ejection from the classroom, the student will be subjected to the school's discipline system.

## Contact Information:

The best way to reach me is by email ([charms@hillsboroschools.net](mailto:charms@hillsboroschools.net)). If you do not receive a response from me within 24 hours, please feel free to resend the email.

**\*Mr. Harms reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time during the course\***

## Forensic Science Syllabus Signature Page

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the Forensic Science syllabus and agree to abide by the goals, guidelines, expectations, and grading policy set forth. I realize that failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in my exclusion from activities, removal from class, or some other corrective measure dependent upon the severity of my actions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature **and** Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature **and** Date

### Parent/Guardian Preferred Method of Contact

Please provide **BOTH** your email and phone number below (**parent/guardian, NOT student**):

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_