Course Title: Forensic Science

Course #: 1547-1548

Course Description: Forensic science is a laboratory-based, introduction to the analysis of crime scenes by collecting and analyzing physical evidence. This course is designed to integrate the fundamental scientific disciplines while giving students both theory and hands-on experience with the skills and knowledge required of a forensic crime scene investigator.

UC/CSU Approval: “d” approved

Grade Level: 11-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 3

Prerequisite: Biology

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Basic math, strong foundation in note taking, knowledge of the scientific method, data collection skills, conducting research, basic hands-on laboratory skills, problem solving, evidence collection, lab safety, technical reading, and logical thinking.

Course Grade Scale:
- Tests and Quizzes = 45%
- Homework and classwork = 15%
- Labs, Investigations and Projects = 25%
- Final exam = 15%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
For each unit, students will be assessed with a lab report and at least one case analysis. There are approximately 6 exams per semester in addition to the final exam.

Forensic analysis topics will include, but are not limited to:
Unit 1: Observation Skills
Unit 2: Crime Scene Investigation and Evidence Collection
Unit 3: The Study of Hair
Unit 4: The Study of Fibers and Textiles
Unit 5: Fingerprints
Unit 6: DNA Fingerprints
Unit 7: Blood and Blood Spatter
Unit 8: Drug Identification and Toxicology
Unit 9: Handwriting Analysis, Forgery, & Counterfeiting
Unit 10: Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause and Time
Unit 11: Soil Examination
Unit 12: Forensic Anthropology
Unit 13: Glass Evidence
Unit 14: Casts and Impressions
Unit 15: Tool Marks
Unit 16: Ballistics