

Forensics 2020-2021

Instructor: Alexis Varner

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School Number: 623-209-0017

Tutoring Hours: Monday and Wednesday

Classroom: Room 211

2:35pm to 3:25pm

Course Description

Forensics introduces students to concepts of forensic investigation and the types of evidence that is collected. The topics that will be covered in this course include, but are not limited to: the history of the crime lab, eyewitness accounts, types of evidence, how evidence is collected from the crime scene, DNA, blood, hair, fingerprints evidence, and testing evidence.

Course Textbooks

Bertino, A. and Bertino, P. (2009). *Forensic Science Fundamentals and Investigation (1st Ed.)*. Cengage Learning.

Cost to replace a textbook is \$100.

Materials

Students will need a notebook (or loose leaf paper), pens or pencils, and a folder.

Grading

You can access our Online Academic Resource through our Student Grades link on north-pointeprep.com.

Grades will be based on points earned from tests, quizzes, and class assignments.

The following table is an approximation of the points per quarter.

Category	Points	Total Points
3 Tests	80 Points each	240 Total Points*
Assignments	10 to 20 Points Each	300 Total Points*
10 Quizzes	20 Points Each	200 Total Points*

*The total points for each category is subject to change.

Letter grades will be earned according to the following percentages:

A	90% -100%
B	80% -89%
C	70% -79%
D	60% -69%
F	59% or lower

D and F Grades

When a student's grade falls below a C, per school policy, the student's parents will be notified no later than the end of the following school day. The student will be required to attend mandatory tutoring until their grade is at least a C. If the student's grade becomes an F, the parent/guardian will be notified regarding the failing grade.

Failing to attend mandatory tutoring will result in ISS or other disciplinary action seen fit by administration. **It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher if he/she has tutoring with another teacher.** Failing to do so will be seen as failure to attend mandatory tutoring, thus following the same consequences mentioned earlier.

Frequently checking your grade online is ESSENTIAL! Missing work or forgetting to turn work in DOES lower your grade!

Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 pm to 3:30 pm on Fridays to make up the credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.

*Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.

Attendance Policy

An absence will only be considered excused when the parent/guardian contacts the school office, via phone, attendance line, and/or e-mail prior to 9am the day of the absence.

If a parent/guardian **does not call or e-mail** by 9 am on the day of the absence, an **unexcused absence** will occur and credit for assignments, tests, labs, and/or quizzes due that day will NOT be given.

Meaning, anything due that day will result in a zero (0).

If a student is absent for more than 9 days per semester, the status of the class becomes an audit and their grades/credits may be withheld.

Make-up Exams and Quizzes

Make-up exams will only be given if the student had an excused absence the day the exam was given. If the absence is unexcused, a zero (0) will be given for the test and the student CAN-NOT make the test up. If the absence is an excused absence, the student will have two days per excused absence to take the make-up exam and it must be taken during tutoring. Taking the

exam during tutoring hours ensures the student will have a quiet place to focus on the exam, as well as not miss that day's instruction.

Make-up Work

Make-up work will only receive credit if the student had an excused absence on the day it was due.

The student will have two (2) days per excused absence, up to one (1) week, to complete the missing work.

If the absence was unexcused, the student will receive a zero (0) for the assignment(s). The student may obtain the missed assignments to help keep from falling behind, but the assignment cannot be turned in for credit.

It is the student's responsibility to make up work missed during the absence.

Incomplete and Late Work

Incomplete work will be accepted. However, it will be grades as is.

Late work will be accepted; however, it will be worth 50% of the original value starting the day after it was due. It will not be accepted after one (1) week from the due date.

Any lab the student misses must be made up in tutoring the week that lab was performed. Most materials used in the lab are organic and tend to go bad after a week. Once the material goes bad, the lab cannot be completed. If the student does not make up the lab in that time frame, a zero (0) will be given.

Course Management and Academic Integrity

Please follow these and all other rules and expectations located in the student handbook set by North Pointe Prep.

- Inappropriate behavior and/or language will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.
 - First offense: a warning will be issued
 - Second offense: disciplinary action as outlined in the NPP Student Handbook
- Be on time: Students are expected to be in class, sitting in his/her assigned seat, working on the bell work, located on the board, when the final bell rings.
 - First offense: A warning will be issued
 - Second offense: The student or students will receive a zero (0) for bell work given that day.
 - Third or more offense(s): Administration will be called to remove the student from the classroom.
- Students need to be prepared each day
 - Being prepared means: bring a **pen** or **pencil**, his/her binder, notebook, or folder with his/her work in it and notes in it to class each day.
- During class, **no cell phones**, headphones, or other electronic devices are to be used or seen. Only educational items are to be on the student's desk (i.e. pencil, paper, worksheet, notebooks, etc).

- First offense: The student will be asked to put it away
- Second offense: The items will be taken from the student and returned at the end of the class period. The parent/guardian of the student will be notified
- Third offense: The items will be taken to the 4A center. The student will not be able to retrieve their items until the school day is over. The parent/guardian of the student will be notified.
- Fourth or more offenses: Administration will be called and the student will be removed from the classroom.

Academic Integrity

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of students. Violation(s) of academic integrity include(s), but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, tampering, and plagiarism.

Course Outline*

- Unit 1
 - Crime scene basic: what forensic scientists do, eyewitnesses, observations, eyewitness accuracy, how to secure the scene, the different patterns for gathering evidence, the type of evidence that can be gathered, chain of custody
- Unit 2:
 - Fingerprinting: what fingerprints are, the different patterns that make up fingerprints, and how fingerprints are collected.
 - DNA: what DNA is, what are genes, DNA fingerprinting, and how DNA fingerprints is used to connect a suspect to the crime scene, as well as prove paternity
- Unit 3
 - Blood: examining the blood spatter pattern, determining the cause of the pattern, blood typing.
 - Toxicology: the study of the toxicology, history of toxicology, what are toxins are, how are toxin collected from samples, the testing of toxins, and types of the most common toxins.
- Unit 4
 - Ballistics: history of ballistics, fingerprints on bullets, and the testing of ballistics
 - Hair and fibers: the collections of hair and fibers, the testing of fibers for their composition, testing of DNA on hair strands, comparing hair/fibers to those at crime scenes.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and schedule as necessary to facilitate the objectives of the course

Please feel free to e-mail me at avarner@pointeschools.org if you have any questions, comments or concerns. I look forward to getting to know you, the students, and to having a wonderful year!

Parents and Students

Please fill out the information on this page and have your student return it by August 5, 2020.

Student Signature: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student e-mail (optional): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian e-mail: _____