

Forensic Law Syllabus

Instructor: Michael Zarate

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[Book Site: https://nglsync.cengage.com/portal/Launch/Course/MTPN05VZG5ZT](https://nglsync.cengage.com/portal/Launch/Course/MTPN05VZG5ZT)

DESCRIPTION: The application of scientific technology to supply *accurate* and *objective* information reflecting the events that occurred at a crime. This course is designed to utilize and apply scientific processes and principles to crime scene investigations.

The course is enhanced with laboratory experiences, group activities, and projects. Emphasis is on cooperative learning and problem solving.

BOOK: We will be using parts of the textbook: *Forensic Science: Fundamentals & Investigations 3e*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn:

- *Deductive Reasoning (reasoning from the general to the particular)
- *Inductive Reasoning (reasoning from detailed facts to general principles)
- *Classifying information and evidence based on characteristics
- *Comparing and Contrasting evidence and information
- *Problem Solving
- *Analyzing Perspectives
- *Constructing Support
- *Error Analysis

Topics that will be covered in this class may include: Fingerprinting, Footprints, Ballistics, Blood Detection and Analysis.

SUGGESTED REQUIREMENTS:

- * Colored pencils and highlighters
- * Access to Internet
- * Computer paper and printer
- * 1 ½” 3-Ring binder
- * Notebook paper

EXPECTATIONS:

- * Come to class prepared for the day.
- * Follow all safety rules and procedures. ALL MANDATORY PPE MUST BE WORN!
- * Show respect for school policies, rules, each other and the teacher.
- * Work together cooperatively in your group, but turn in your own work.
- * Make good use of your study time....avoid procrastination.
- * Do your best every day; strive to achieve your full potential.
- * Actively participate in class and labs every day.
- * No candy, gum, drinks, or food in class.
- * NO BACKPACKS WILL BE ALLOWED AT/ON DESKS. (This is a safety hazard).
ALL BACKPACKS WILL BE KEPT IN THE HALLWAY.
- * No electronic devices (smartwatches, earbuds, etc...) other than iPads will be allowed during tests or class.
- * Cell phones will be kept in the storage area at the front of the classroom unless being used as part of the assigned lesson.
- * Complete all classroom and laboratory assignments on time. Assignments are due at the START of class the day they are due (unless specifically noted). Papers not turned in at the due date/time will be considered late and receive 0 credit. Students that fail to turn in work on time will be expected to stay after school THAT DAY or come early THE NEXT MORNING to complete late assignments to receive 50% credit. Late work turned in after 24 hours will receive a maximum of 40% credit. If parental contact must be made, a maximum of 35% will be given. Work that is more than 5 days past the due date will not be accepted.
- * Students are responsible for all missed work, notes, and assignments, due to illness or any other absence.
- * Work/Tests missed because of absences that are pre-excused or due to school activities needs to be turned in/taken **before** you are gone. Failure to turn in work/take tests will result in it being considered late.
- * Class work may consist of lecture notes, daily or vocabulary quizzes, labs, exams, discussions, or combinations of these.
- * Unannounced quizzes CANNOT be made-up.
- * Daily quizzes/questions must be completed during class or as assigned. If you are absent, please refer to the absence policy below.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Each student is responsible for doing his or her work. Students who violate this policy will be subject to receiving a zero for the assignment or test, quiz, or examination, etc., and MAY face additional disciplinary action. Students who continue to cheat or plagiarize may be subject to further discipline. Use of AI generated material will be considered cheating.

Please follow the guidelines and definitions as written in the Student Code of Conduct.

Attendance:

It is very important to maintain steady attendance; many of the concepts discussed will be building blocks for concepts discussed later. Please refer to your student handbook for the attendance policy. 1 tardy = 1/2 hour detention. If this detention is missed, the amount of time will double. After detention being missed for the second time, the student will be referred to ISS. Work missed because of absences that are pre-excused or due to school activities needs to be turned in **before** you are gone.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated based on your performance on:

Quarter (45%) + Quarter (45%) + Sem Final (10%)= 100% Semester

Quarter grades are calculated by:

tests and quizzes - 50%

labs and projects 35%

daily practice - 15%

Class Participation/Discipline:

Class work/practice may consist of lecture notes, daily or vocabulary quizzes, labs, exams, discussions, or combinations of these. Students may receive points each day for meeting the expectations of the course. If students do not meet the expectations of the class, they can lose points and/or receive detention. If students are absent, they lose all points for that day's practice/expectations until the student has made up all the work done in class that day. Students that fail to bring a computer to class will still be expected to participate in class and lectures. Students are expected to follow school guidelines and rules. Failure to do so may result in detention or referral to office for further discipline. Please refer to your Student Handbook for detentions and guidelines. Cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during tests, labs, etc...

Labs:

Students must participate in all labs. If students feel they cannot perform a lab, they should talk to the teacher so the teacher can plan an alternative lab. Students receive points for participating in a lab, which is counted as a lab grade. Students are expected to follow safety rules as outlined in the safety contract and according to lab procedures. Violations of safety procedures may result in loss of points, dismissal from the lab with 0 points, detention, or dismissal from class.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on the LHS grade scale.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT:

GENERAL ABSENCES: Illness or other unplanned absence

Get a General Absence Form and follow the directions:

1. All labs must be made up (WITHIN 2 DAYS due to loss of materials) before or after school. (No exceptions!)
2. Come in before or after school to ask the teacher what you have missed.
3. If you miss a TEST, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to arrange to make up the test. TESTS must be made up in **2 days**.
Tests missed due to activities/pre-excused must be taken prior to their absence. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF 10% FROM TEST SCORE FOR EACH DAY AFTER THE TEST IS GIVEN!
4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all make-up work as soon as possible. (Follow the 2 days rule- 2 days to make up the work for each day of absence.)
5. Turn in any assignment that was due for the day(s) absent. Failure to do so will result in a '0' for the assignment after which a maximum of 50% is achievable. Students that fail to make up or arrange a time for daily quizzes within 2 days of returning will not be given the opportunity to do so after the time limit.
6. If the student has a pre-excused absence (other than activities), they need to ask for the assignments in advance and hand assignments in before leaving. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a '0' for the assignment, after which a maximum of 50% is achievable.

Extra-curricular activities absences:

All absences that are due to activities, athletics, competitions, etc... must be cleared at least 24 hours prior to the absence. Students need to complete the Activities

Absence Form at least 24 hours prior to the absence. All work due prior to their absence MUST be turned in before departure to receive full credit. Failure to turn in work will result in the student receiving a '0' for the assignment until the assignment is finished, after which a maximum of 50% is achievable. Students who fail to have an absence cleared prior to being gone will be held after school, the next day. Contact with coaches will be made to inform them that the student will miss/be late to practice.

Declaration of Accountability

By signing this paper the student agrees to be held accountable for all the expectations and rules set forth in this syllabus for Mr. Zarate's Forensic Law class. Violations of rules will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Take this syllabus home and go over it with your parents. After you and your parents have carefully read it and understand it, please sign and return it.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: If your child falls behind with his classwork, you will be contacted. If your child causes repeated problems in class, you will be contacted and asked to come in for a meeting to resolve this issue.

Failure to sign and return this does not preclude the student from the expectations set forth.

Student: _____ (print)

Student: _____ (sign) Date: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ (print)

Parent/Guardian _____(sign)