

Gordon Sanford
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I. Interdisciplinary Forensic Sciences (SY2009/10).

This course is a “hands-on” assessment of the various sciences routinely employed in the analysis of an event, through multi-dimensional formats. Specifically: detailed documentation of a scene; identification, collection & preservation of physical and trace evidence; clinical analysis of such evidence and formal presentation of data and analysis in a judicial procedure.

Studies start out with scene processing and resource management through contamination controls. Extensive utilization is made of digital imagery, sketches and applied triangulation for reconstruction of scenes. We will analyze hair & fibers, glass & soils, various impression types, latent fingerprints and DNA fingerprints with introductions to serology, toxicology, ballistics and other forensic specialties as skills progress.

Crime Scene Investigations and Reconstruction (© 2007) by Robert Ogle, Jr. is our classroom text reference. However, we will be using the Internet more than the text with references to local, county, state, regional, national and international forensic science activities; from Fremont Police to The New Scotland Yard. Creating your own Manual of Operations (fall semester), Laboratory Evidence Analysis (spring semester).

Activities of this nature encompass MVROP Employability outcomes: Adhering to individual personal responsibility, social responsibility, critical responsibility and communications are essential for successful completion of this course where team work is of paramount importance and constantly critiqued. There are a number of course evaluations, including multiple high schools, regional and National competitions.

II. Forensic Science Material Requirements

A three ring binder is required for organization of reference materials. Students are expected to have this with them for all course related activities (every class). Safety glasses and disposable gloves are also required for personal safety and contamination control. With competitions in mind, team uniforms (Polo Shirts/colors) will be selected by the students and an embroidered logo patch attached. For a professional uniformed appearance, students will wear khaki pants and dark shoes, every Thursday and for potential field trips to visit various forensic facilities in the Bay Area. At this time student participation expense is unknown, however, transportation costs will be shared when not fully underwritten by sponsoring agencies or MVROP.

III. Grading Policy

Progressive reports (quarterly) as well as formal semester (1st & 2nd) grades are based upon evaluations of student production in the following areas:

Field Ops. & Laboratory skills	40 %	Employability skills	20 %
Academic assessments (tests & quizzes)	30 %	Individual participation	10 %

Grading Scales:

97.5 – 100 + = A+	87.5 – 89.9 % = B+	77.5 – 79.9 % = C+
92.0 – 97.4 % = A	82.0 – 87.4 % = B	72.0 – 77.4 % = C
90.0 – 91.9 % = A-	80.0 – 81.9 % = B-	70.0 – 71.9 % = C-
60.0 – 69.9 % = D (incomplete)	Less than 60.0 % = F (No Credit)	

Should a student be in jeopardy of failing this course at any time, a computer-generated notice is mailed home and attempts made to remedy the situation. Any students with “D” or “F” will not be registered for the second semester in Forensic Sciences.

Whenever a student fails an academic assessment, a make-up may be taken. This must be arranged within a week following the poor performance, in accordance with specific topic requirement. Maximum make-up grade is “C”. **Late homework is not accepted.** Makeup policy for legal absences is in accordance with the Mission Valley Regional Occupational Program and the Fremont Unified School District policies.

IV. Code of Conduct

Time management, use of materials, teamwork, initiative, dependability, organization skills, attendance, classroom behavior and academic honesty will be evaluated through teacher observation of work and attitudes/actions in class. Video surveillance is an integral part of Forensics and Lab #228 is on video camera. Late attendance is inappropriate: MVR0P Tardy Policy will be strictly enforced and multiple absences can lead to loss of credit or dismissal from the course.

Inappropriate behavior and/or disrespect will not be tolerated at any time in view of the safety issues that are of paramount importance in this course of study. MVR0P strictly enforces a **No Tolerance Student Behavior Policy**. On our first day of class this policy will be discussed and each student will sign the Student Behavior Agreement.

V. Parental Involvement... Student Success!

I encourage parents to join us whenever we have an activity or guest speaker that interests them. I am available every school day before class, normally in Lab 228 by 7:00 AM (classes start at 7:20 AM) and can schedule appointments for after school if necessary. I have an Internet address that is the best way to communicate with me:

<teachersanford@yahoo.com>

I consider my success as a teacher to be imbedded in my enthusiasm for the subject materials and the fact that I have teenagers... Which means I have “been there/done that” as a parent! So please, don’t hesitate to talk with me if you don’t understand what is going on. I don’t have all the answers, for students or parents, but I try.

Forensic Science Syllabus

Student & Parent Confirmation

I have read this syllabus and will follow the guidelines set up for this class, understanding that student activities are under video surveillance.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature (ink): _____

Date: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature (ink): _____

Date: _____

Work Phone #: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Best time (place) to be contacted by phone: _____

Is there anything I should know about your child that may improve my teaching relationship with them, thus improving their success with me.
