

## Forensic Biology Class Syllabus

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### COURSE SUMMARY:

Forensic Biology is a one-year course taught in accordance with the Common Core State Standards, fulfilling the life science requirement for graduation from the Vista Union School District, as well as one of the two years of lab science required for university admissions. Forensic science is the study and application of science to matters of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. This course establishes a foundation for understanding many of the concepts and techniques in forensic science including crime scene processing, physical evidence, microscopy, fingerprints, and DNA. This course is taught by doing hands-on labs and activities. Emphasis is placed on investigative work using scientific methodology (detailed observation, accurate data collection and recording, experimental design, data interpretation and analysis). In addition, lectures, demonstrations, reading packets, technology and visual aids will be used to support students' understanding of the role of forensics in studying biology. Students will apply critical thinking skills in solving justice problems by discussing relevant court cases. State-of-the-art equipment will be used to teach real world forensic techniques and skills. Upon completion of this course, students will have developed the process and skills necessary for post-secondary education and/or a career in forensic science.

### COURSE TOPICS:

In Forensic Biology we will study the major concepts of the living world, including Scientific Method, Laboratory Procedures, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Structure and Function of the Cell, Homeostasis and Cell Transport, Energy in the Cell, Cell Reproduction, DNA and biological evidence, pattern/impression evidence, Evolution, and Ecology. The textbook for this class is ***Forensic Science: Fundamentals & Investigations, Bertino & Bertino***.

### PREREQUISITE/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Concurrent enrollment or successful completion of Integrated Math 1 with a "C" or better.  
Each student is expected to bring a 3-ring binder, notebook paper, pens and pencils, and a willingness to learn each day we meet.

### CLASS RULES:

1. Treat every person on campus with respect.
2. Be in your seat and ready to begin before the bell rings.
3. No eating or drinking in the classroom with the exception of water.
4. Do your own work.
5. Participate in ALL class activities.
6. Electronic device use in class is NOT permitted.
7. The teacher and NOT the bell dismisses the class. Room must be clean and students in their proper seats before dismissal. **DO NOT** cluster around the doorway before dismissal.

### LABORATORY RULES:

You must have a signed laboratory safety contract and pass the safety quiz before performing any Forensic Biology laboratories. If you are not following the laboratory safety contract or specific safety rules on any given laboratory you will receive one warning before being removed from the laboratory. If you are endangering anyone you will be removed from class for the day and sent to administration with a referral.

### GRADING:

Grades are calculated on a point basis. These points come from:

- |                                   |                 |                          |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Labs/Lab reports               | 2) Classwork    | 3) Warm-Ups              | 4) Homework           |
| 5) Unit Tests/Quizzes/Final Exams | 6) Unit packets | 7) Student Participation | (8) Research projects |

- i) Tests – are a combination of multiple-choice, matching, and short answer essay questions. They are given at the end of each unit (approximately every 4 weeks). There will be a culminating final given at the end of each semester.
- ii) Homework – will be assigned 2-3 times a week. It may consist of reading, finishing a lab write-up, completing review sheets, vocabulary, or researching class topics. It is not considered 'busy work'.

## GRADING (continued):

iii) Labs – numerous laboratory activities will be conducted during each unit. Each lab write-up will be discussed in class prior to the due date.

All assignments, tests, and the final grade will be determined by a straight percentage of possible points:

90.0% to 100.0%	A
80.0% to 89.9%	B
70.0% to 79.9%	C
60.0% to 69.9%	D
59.9% and below	F

Students also receive a citizenship grade each semester, based on citizenship displayed in the classroom. A grade of “outstanding”, “satisfactory”, “needs improvement” or “unsatisfactory” will be shown on the report card.

\*\*\*Progress reports and report cards are delivered electronically in our district and are available via the Aeries Parent Portal. Phone calls and emails from RBV will notify parents/families when “official” grades have been posted.

## ATTENDANCE/MAKE-UP WORK:

Attendance is very important. If you have an **EXCUSED** absence, you will have as many days as absent upon return to make up any missed assignments for full credit. If you have an **UNEXCUSED** absence, you will have 1 day upon return to make up any missed assignments for half credit. **Some labs cannot be made up. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed!** Make-ups are **by appointment only**, after school.

## TARDY POLICY & ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

This class will strictly adhere to Rancho Buena Vista High Schools’ policies and procedures regarding tardies and academic honesty. Students must be in class when the final bell rings or they are considered tardy. For a detailed description of these school policies, please refer to the student handbook:

[http://rbvhs.vusd.k12.ca.us/\\_Registration/\\_2019-20Documents/19-20\\_student\\_handbook.pdf](http://rbvhs.vusd.k12.ca.us/_Registration/_2019-20Documents/19-20_student_handbook.pdf)

**Disciplinary Actions-** The policy for disciplinary action will be discussed at the beginning of each semester. These are the guidelines we will be following:

1 <sup>st</sup> Infraction:	Verbal warning and name goes into “The Book”
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infraction:	10 minute lunch detention in front of the Assistant Principal’s office
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infraction:	Phone call/email parents
4 <sup>th</sup> Infraction:	Referral to Assistant Principal
5 <sup>th</sup> Infraction:	Saturday school, Student/Parent/Teacher conference/suspension.
6 <sup>th</sup> Infraction:	Hopefully we do not get to this point but multiple Saturday school and possible expulsion from the class.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

You are encouraged to track your own progress in class and seek assistance as necessary. You are expected to complete your own work. If you have questions or if you feel you cannot complete an assignment, you are expected to get help before the assignment is due. Please visit me during lunch or after school, email me, or visit the tutoring center to get help! Good problem solvers spend time practicing and ask questions rather than give up!

**SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE TEACHER**

I have reviewed and understand the information regarding classroom rules and policies, classroom activities, grading, tardies, attendance and make-up work.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, please provide me with your contact information below:

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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