

Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation

Text: Forensic Science for High School

Instructor: Pedro M. Vega email: vegape@lee.k12.ga.us **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, Criminal Justice Essentials

Course Description: This is the third and final course in the Law and Justice curriculum of the Public Safety pathway. It focuses on the criminal investigative process and the forensic examination of evidence. Students will see photos and videos dealing with subject matter of a somewhat graphic nature. All such material has been approved by the LCHS administration. Your signature indicates your approval for your child to participate in all aspects of this class.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will have an opportunity through this course to gain an understanding of their interest in pursuing a career in the Public Safety area. Students will be expected to demonstrate technical literacy (read, write and comprehend the language of the field), and numerical literacy (understand and perform math concepts that are relative to the field). Professionals in the public safety field will be invited to talk with the class.

Course Goals: To introduce students to crime scene investigation and the nature of forensic examination of evidence at a crime scene and in laboratory conditions in order to provide usable evidence and testimony in a trial. They will learn to secure and process a crime scene, prepare written reports following proper protocols, draw conclusions about a crime based on the evidence they collected, and be able to testify at a trial about their findings. Students will also learn about the aspects of organized crime, criminal profiling, cyber crime, and serial crimes.

Grading Scale:

- A - 90 & above (Outstanding quality of work presented on time)
- B - 80-89 (Above average quality of work presented on time)
- C - 70-79 (Average quality of work presented on time)
- F - < 70 (Poor quality of work and late work)

Assignments: Students will have tests, midterm assessments, conduct labs, and have quizzes and class work assignments, and projects. As part of the curriculum for this class, students will be reading and discussing one or more various Sherlock Holmes or Agatha Christie novels. All novels deal with the criminal justice system, are appropriate for the curriculum, and follow Lee County BOE policy. Should you have some objection to your student reading the assigned novel, please contact me so that we may discuss an alternate assignment.

Assessment Plan:

40%-tests

35%-class work /homework/labs/ quizzes

25%-projects

Late Work Policy: Up to a 50% reduction in grade; Any work over 3 days late that has not been approved by me for later submission may receive a 0.

Class Expectations: Students will come to class on time with their notebook, textbook and any other necessary material EVERY DAY! All rule infractions will be handled according to the LCHS student handbook and official school policy. Students are expected to be familiar with school policies. Failure to do so can negatively impact a student's grade. All LCHS policies pertaining to electronic devices should be adhered to and will be enforced. Please feel free to contact me. I can be reached most quickly by email at any time during the school day. **You can also use infinite campus to check your student's grades online.** If a student is absent, they must arrange to make up all missed work upon their return to school. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero (0) for the missed work. **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THIS!**

Materials: They may use a three ring binder with other subjects in it as long as they use dividers so that my class has its own section in the binder. They may use pencils, blue, black (preferred), green, or purple ink. *Any work done in red will not be counted.* Work done in any other color may not be counted.

End of Pathway Assessment: Students completing all three courses in the pathway will take this exam second semester. It will count as an exam **and can not be exempted.**

SkillsUSA is co-curricular with this class. It provides students with opportunities to compete in skill competitions tied to what they learn in the Law and Justice program. There is a cost to join and participation is **OPTIONAL**. Students going to competition must meet eligibility requirements and pay the **nonrefundable** fees for the trip. They may offset the cost by participating in fundraisers. If a student is disqualified from competition due to grades or behavior, or withdraws, the money paid is forfeited.

Google Classroom Information School Year: 20/21

Google Classroom 4th Period Code # **s4vcwts**

Google Classroom 6th Period Code # **vusz4kn**

Google Classroom 7th Period Code # **y4bkjfw**

Expectations for Virtual Students

•ALL VIRTUAL STUDENTS are expected to adhere to the LCHS Student expectations for Online Learning for the Lee County School System.

•[LCSS Online Learning Expectations](#)

•Virtual students are expected to log in daily to class during the scheduled class period.

•Virtual students must complete tests and quizzes during their scheduled class period.

•Virtual students are expected to uphold academic integrity and digital citizenship: including appropriate class discussions and participation.