Course Description: In this course, we will study topics in the application of science to the criminal justice system, including personal identification, analysis of drugs, forms of trace evidence, identification of biological fluids, forensic pathology, and forensic toxicology. We will utilize scientific properties and techniques to analyze hypothetical crime scene data. This course will employ both a wealth of instruction and direct hands on activities. In addition to covering key concepts in forensic science, we will meet goal one indicators of the MSDE voluntary state curriculum.

General Information:
Office Hours: Monday-Friday (Excluding Wednesdays) from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.
(Emails to be checked at the end of each academic day)

Course Objectives: Students should be able to recognize and apply concepts of forensic science to real life situations.

Class Structure: Classes will begin with a written warm up, during which students will be asked to settle in and submit their homework. We will then continue with a lecture or small group laboratory with a closing activity to reinforce the day’s concepts.

Student Workload: Students should expect to receive homework 3 to 4 times a week. Additionally, with the lectures moving quickly, it becomes increasingly important that students review their notes independently at the end of the day. Questions arising from this review should be brought up during the next day’s warm up.

Aids: There are great number of useful review and animation websites available online.
Prentice Hall: http://wps.prenhall.com/chet_saferstein_forensicscience_1/
CAC: http://www.cacnews.org/


Grading: The final course grade will be based upon the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests and Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Reports/Projects</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classwork</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notebook Check</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Preparedness</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>+ 5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Homework and classwork will be graded upon a 0-5 scale that can interpreted in the following way: 5pts-Excellent, 4pts Good, 3 pts- Fair, 2 pts- Poor, 1 pt- Unacceptable, 0 pts- Missing or Not Original Work. Late penalties will be assessed as necessary. Students absent will need to make arrangements to collect and/or submit their make-up assignments.
Assignments: Assigned work to include (but not exclusive to) 4 exams, 3 Lab reports, 3 notebook checks and daily classwork and homework assignments per quarter.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Using another person’s work as your own work is considered plagiarism, which is a form of cheating. You will receive a grade of 0 on the assignments and your parents will be notified of the plagiarism. If the person from whom you copied knowingly allowed their work to be used, they will also receive a grade of 0 and their parents will be notified.

Accommodations: Please arrange for any necessary accommodations in advance. These might include extra time, copies of notes, verbal exams/quizzes, and others noted in your testing.

Food and Drink: As a safety precaution, food will not be permitted in the classroom. Lab surfaces can become contaminated during the course of the day from laboratory activities. Sealable drink containers are permissible.

Schedule: Work will be assigned at the close of each class session. Please use your assignment book and refer to your WebLocker account. Work should be turned in promptly at the start of class.

Course Breakdown:

First Quarter
Introduction
The Crime Scene
Physical Evidence
Properties of Matter and Analysis of Glass
Drugs

Second Quarter
Forensic Toxicology
The Microscope
Forensic Serology
DNA: The Indispensable Forensic Science Tool

Third Quarter
Trace Evidence I: Hairs and Fibers
Trace Evidence II: Metals, Plants, and Soil
Forensic Aspects of Fire Investigation
Forensic Investigation of Explosions
Fingerprints

Forth Quarter
Firearms, Tool Marks, and Other Impressions
Document Examination
Computer Forensics
The Internet
Careers in Forensic Science