



## Grading Policy

Your quarter average is comprised of two categories:

- Homework, Participation, Preparedness (15%)
- Assessments: Quizzes, Tests, Reports, Projects, and Labs (85%)

## Class Components

- **Math Background:** As stated in the Berlin High Program of Studies Booklet extensive use of math will be needed for many of the labs performed in the course.
- **Notebook:** A notebook with lined paper and a folder to keep homework and labs is required for this course. Failure to have your notebook or textbook in class on any given day will negatively impact your participation grade.
- **Labs:** Labs will typically have a graded component. Additionally, questions about labs are often included in the following quiz or test. **Lab Make-ups** can be scheduled by the student for Tuesdays or Thursdays within one week following the scheduled lab. **Failure to make up a lab within 1 week will result in a 0 for that lab.**
- **Quizzes/Tests/Assessments** – Expect a quiz or test every 2-3 weeks. Quizzes or tests do not take the entire period so **be sure to bring your book to class on test days.** (We may use your book to review first or you may begin working on the next assignment from the book after completing your test.)
- **The Final Exam:** Students will complete a courtroom portfolio as a final project. Students will create a crime to analyze throughout the semester. At the end of each unit, students will be given in-class time to analyze the crime based on the unit we have just studied. In addition to the final exam grade, each end of unit analysis will be graded as a 10-point participation grade. Computer time will be provided to assist with the completion of the project. Depending on the number of chapters covered the average portfolio will be 8 to 10 typed (double spaced) pages. This is an individual portfolio project of only your work (no partners). Submission to turnitin.com may be required.
- **Make-up Work/Assessments** - It is the student's responsibility to schedule time for make up work that is convenient for both student and teacher. In general, school policy states that students have two days to make up work (including tests) for each excused absence from class.
- **Textbook** – Students are expected to bring their textbook to class each day. Students are responsible for the condition and return of the textbook assigned to them at the end of the school year.

## CHAPTERS OF STUDY:

Chapter 1: Observation Skills  
Chapter 2: Crime Scene Investigation and Evidence Collection  
Chapter 3: The Study of Hair  
Chapter 4: A Study of Fibers and Textiles  
Chapter 5: Pollen and Spore Examination  
Chapter 6: Fingerprints  
Chapter 7: DNA Profiling  
Chapter 8: Blood and Blood Spatter  
Chapter 9: Drug Identification & Toxicology

Chapter 10: Handwriting Analysis, Forgery, and Counterfeiting  
Chapter 11: Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause and Time  
Chapter 12: Soil Examination  
Chapter 13: Forensic Anthropology: What we learn from bones  
Chapter 14: Glass Evidence  
Chapter 15: Casts and Impressions  
Chapter 16: Tool Marks Chapter 17: Ballistics

## **Forensics Final Portfolio Project**

For your final project, you will create a crime to analyze using the skills you have learned in this class. As we finish each unit, you will complete an analysis of the case based on the topics studied. This unit analysis will count as a 10-point participation grade. At the end of the semester you will submit the final portfolio project, which will be graded as noted below. See page 75 of your textbook.

### **Introduction: (15 Points)**

Description of the crime scene including but not limited to:

- a) Scaled drawing with dimensions
- b) Location of doors, windows, furniture, body, weapons, important items to the crime, and trace evidence (blood, hair, etc).
- c) Description of the main suspects including why they are suspects.

### **Main thesis (30 Points)**

Expert testimony of the facts of the case including but not limited to:

- d) List of the trace evidence to be included in your expert testimony along with a description of Locard's exchange principal.
- e) Background information about each piece of trace evidence (types of medullas in hair for example) for the jury (remember- they know nothing!)
- f) Photos, sketches, diagrams, tables, etc clarifying the trace evidence labeled as exhibit A, B, C etc.
- g) Explain the significance of the trace evidence that matches a suspect (class vs. individual evidence)
- h) Use math whenever possible to illustrate the importance of the evidence.
- i) Use important vocabulary (as it relates to a court trial) such as "chain of custody".

### **Conclusion (15 points)**

Summary of the prosecuting attorney to the jury (you present facts but the attorney assigns blame). For example, he or she might say "do to the expert testimony of the facts it is clear...". The conclusion should include but no be limited to:

- a) Crime scene reconstruction (sequence of events and time lines that led to the production of the crime scene).
- b) Motive for the crime (murder).
- c) Summary of the important trace evidence that points to only one possible suspect. Supporting math (probability, etc.) would be nice.

Topics to include: Crime Scene, Evidence collection (chain of custody), Hair, Blood, Fingerprints, Writing (cs note) and if time permits (chromatography, death and insects, and ballistics). You may pick a chapter we did not cover and include that information

Parents, please feel free to contact me with any concerns. Please check the portal frequently. Log onto the Berlin High School Web page and look for Winkler's website under staff directory for more information. A contact number and/or email would be a great help to improve our communication. Together we can make your child's experience in Forensics a rewarding one. I will post this set of guidelines for your convenience on the Berlin web site.

You can contact me via the following

Email: [Jwinkler@berlinschools.org](mailto:Jwinkler@berlinschools.org)

Phone: 860-828-6577 x4019

Website (for class documents, information): <https://staff.berlinschools.org/winklerchem/>

Sincerely,

Jennifer Winkler

I have read the above guidelines (provide signature below please):

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student print name clearly \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_ (print please)