

This is a full-year course that is open for mid-year entry. The tuition shown is for the full year and may be paid in two installments (8/13/23 and 1/5/24).

NOTE: Class begins at noon. Students are allowed to eat lunch during the first 15 minutes of class.

This is a high school science elective with lab that teaches the scientific method, critical thinking, and scientific tests and techniques used in connection with the detection of crime. No science prerequisite is necessary. An additional laboratory fee (amount TBD) will apply. The instructor, Dr. John Mawk, is both a medical doctor and a lawyer and has taught high school science in a variety of settings.

Course description from the instructor:

Dr. John Mawk is pleased to offer the above-captioned year-long course. A Texas native, I completed my neurosurgical residency at U of MN, and then spent nearly three decades organizing pediatric neurosurgery and neurosurgical trauma systems. I've been involved in many medico-legal cases and testified for either the state or the defense about thirty times. For the last 19 years, I've taught at the secondary level. Although I have taught almost everything from Anatomy to Zoology, this will be a first Forensics course for me and for the student. Hopefully we'll learn lots and have some fun along the way.

Forensic "wet labs" are very expensive and probably beyond the present scope of school facilities. For that reason, we will contain costs by purchasing virtual labs (and the associated printed materials) on line. A lot of forensic science relates to logic and reasoning - and that's why it is scientific in character. We will plan to cover pretty much everything... the analysis of blood, fingerprints, DNA evidence, ballistics, tool marks, and tire tracks, drugs and poisons, to name a just a few items.

Although it would be helpful for students to have some background in Biology or Chemistry, I plan to teach each subject beginning with the basics. I'll initiate the first semester with a discussion of scientific method, and then launch into specific forensic topics. Since each subject covered more or less stands alone, it may be reasonable for some students to take the second semester without the first; the only thing they would miss is the fall semester introduction to the thought processes generally underlying forensics.