**Criminal Investigations**

**2025-2026**

**Instructor:**

Lucinda Lessington, MSCJ

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Room Number: 803

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore the basic processes and principles of a criminal investigation. Students will learn the legal responsibilities and challenges of the patrol officer, investigator, and crime scene technician at a crime scene. Students will learn the importance of preserving and documenting the crime scene along with the identification, collection, and processing of evidence and the contribution to the criminal investigation. This course is one of two choices that may be selected for the law enforcement pathway. The prerequisites for this course are Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, and Criminal Justice Essentials.

**Objectives:**

1. Develop a basic knowledge of investigations.
2. Develop the ability to perform skills that are associated with the required competencies of the Criminal Investigations.
3. Develop and enhance employability skills required to seek, apply, and accept employment.
4. Develop a more realistic understanding of the course content using research methods, and hands-on projects.
5. Broaden students’ awareness of the wide variety of opportunities in the law, public safety, corrections, and security career cluster. To provide the students the knowledge and understanding of progressing on the next level.

**Textbook:**

Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigations, 3rd Edition

**Unit/Concept Names:**

Unit 0 Careers in Law and Justice

Unit 1 Forensics: An Introduction and Analysis

Unit 2 Identification, Collection and Examination of Trace Evidence

Unit 3 Fingerprints

Unit 4 Impressions

Unit 5 The Body of Evidence

Unit 6 Serology and DNA

Unit 7 Drugs and Toxicology

Unit 8 Interviews and Interrogations

Unit 9 Notes, Reports and Legal Issues

Unit 10 Preliminary Investigations and Preserving the Crime Scene

Conducting a Homicide Investigation

Unit 11 Conducting a Homicide Investigation

Unit 12 Criminological Theory

Unit 13 Serial Criminals

Unit 14 Organized Crime

**Evaluation (Schoolwide Grading Policy):**

* *Minor Grades* = 60% (quizzes, labs, and graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study)
* *Major Grade*s = 40% (unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, and culminating assessments to measure mastery of standards that comprise a unit of study)

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations:**

You represent the Law and Public Safety Education at this school. Your actions inside this classroom, as it would in an LPSCS career, must be appropriate. Any misconduct will be handled in accordance with Richmond County’s code of conduct policies including dismissal from the program.

* Have respect for yourself, others, and the equipment at all times.
* Be on time, prepared, and ready to work.
* Treat others the way you want to be treated.
* Use of any type of lab equipment requires the instructor’s permission.
* Inappropriate talking during lecture is disruptive to other students; raise your hand if you have a question.
* Participate in class discussions and all assignments.
* **NO CELLPHONES IN THE BUILDING/CLASSROOM**

**Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior/Cellphone Non-Compliance:**

1st Offense: Student/teacher conference and documentation in Infinite Campus

2nd Offense: Phone call or email to the parent and documentation in Infinite Campus

3rd Offense: Referral to grave level AP

**Safety:**

This course will involve hands-on activities. Appropriate safety procedures and techniques will be discussed prior to each activity. Deviance from these procedures at any time will result in automatic exclusion from that practical session, and an alternate assignment will be given

**Course Materials:**

**Course Materials:**

\* 3” 3-ring Binder \* 1 - Composition Notebook

\* Highlighters \* Loose Leaf Paper

\* Pencil \* Pens **Resources:**

Scenario Videos

YouTube Videos

Crime Scenes

**Modes of Communication:**

Remind messages

To sign up for class reminders, please visit:  
[www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)

Code: @fe2cfe7

**Parent Information**

Please read over this entire syllabus. I like to have open communication with parents. I know you want to hear about everything going on and I know your child tells you *everything* (being they are teenagers)! I want to stress up front that I am a very approachable instructor. If you ever feel the slightest need to contact me, please do so at [lessilu@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:lessilu@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us) and I will contact you if needed at my earliest convenience.

Our class addresses three main areas: Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Judiciary. I hope to prepare these young adults for careers ranging from lawyers to S.W.A.T. officers and everything in between. Even if your child does not go into a career in criminal justice, he/she will leave this class with a greater appreciation of law enforcement officers, an understanding of the judicial system, and better knowledge of constitutional rights. **The very nature of public safety, at times, is not pleasant. Some of the stories and movies will be graphic. If for any reason you wish for your child to not see graphic material, please email me.** Your child will be exposed to some of the “true experiences” of public safety through guest speakers and movies.

Your signature documents understanding of the course requirements.

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Student Name Parent Name Date

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Students Signature Parents Signature

Parents email:

Parents contact number(s):

**Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to change.**