

# forensics.info.ritter

Keep this in your notebook. The following is some information which, if you follow will guarantee a smooth-running class for all.

## website information

You can find schedules, lecture notes (after we finish the chapter), email addresses, and other fun & exciting things at:

**firstlightastro.com**

## pacing guide

We will probably cover chapters 1-8 in the first semester, 9-end in the second. We'll see. See the website for more specifics.

## classroom behavior

1. If you drift off task, I will call attention to it *once*..
2. If you drift away again, you will get **the Warning**.
3. If you continue in your ways and get a second warning, you will roll **The Dice** or push for **The Random Number**. (You must accomplish whatever The Dice or Number dictate within *one school week*. If not, it's Detention time!)
4. Now, if the original naughty behavior continues, then you will go to have a friendly chat with the AP. Your parents will be notified.
5. If this fails to motivate you into some positive action, then you, the AP, your parents, and I will have a little meeting to see about sending you on a vacation.

## cheating (aka lying, deceiving, being dishonest, stealing, having no integrity, etc.)

I *hate* it; you ain't gonna do it. If you are suspected of cheating, I will warn you loudly and clearly. At the next hint of cheating coming from you, if you even *think* about it, your paper will get the **BIG ZERO** and you're on the way to Building 4. They don't like cheaters, either. Blatant cheating will receive no warning but will receive all the rest.

**If I see you copying homework, it's gone! (Bottom line: Don't cheat, lie, or whine and we're friends forever.)**

## notebook

1. All students will provide their own bound three-ring notebook **for Forensics use only. I mean it!!!**
2. This notebook will be brought to class every day.
3. All work must be kept here and, puh-lease, no loose papers. Remember, your notebook is a record of your work. It is subject to being graded at any time. Keep it organized in the following way using dividers:

### Section

### Divider Name

LAB ACTIVITIES  
CASE STUDIES  
ACTION HERO  
END-OF-CHAP QUES  
MISCELLANY  
IN-CLASS NOTES/PAPER

**LABS**  
**CASES**  
**AH**  
**EOCS**  
**MISC**  
**LECTURE**

4. The first section will have all your labs, in order, on graph paper, written in pen, pages numbered, with a Table of Contents up front. :)

## classwork

1. All students are to provide *their own* pen and pencil. Don't even think of asking me!
2. *Labs will be done in pen!* Everything else your call.
3. If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to get the notes or assignments the day you return or off the website.
4. You must turn in an assignment the day it is due. It is *not accepted* after I collect them. So there!
5. Labs and projects get 50% of the total for one day late, 0% after that.
6. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, expect to hand in that assignment within 2 days of your return.
7. As far as tests go, you have *one week* to make it up. Arrange it with me. (**note: make-up tests get no cheat sheets**)
8. To make up a lab, you must do it within that school week. That's it. If you can't, sorry. Arrange it with me.
9. There is no official tutoring. If you need help, come and see and we can arrange something.

## grading

**This class is curved!** Woo hoo! (But, there is this guy named Cliff Curvebuster in the back of the room. He gets 90% on EVERYTHING.) **From whatever the high grade is**, from 90-100, the grades will be curved like this:

$$90-100\% = A \quad 80-89\% = B \quad 70-79\% = C$$

These include quizzes (by chapter), the final, *many* experiments, and the all-important notebook grade.

## tardies and absences

These are handled according to school policy, whatever that may be *this* semester! (Will be posted.)

LABS

CASES

AH

EOCS

MISC

NOTES

## miscellaneous rules

1. Shoot the trash into the trashcan, if you dare. Miss and pick up the room. [Note: Throwing *anything anytime* is counted here.]
2. Not knowing where we are during a reading or problem solving time = Warning.
3. Potty trips: no problem, but take The Pass. (You don't take the pass, you're on **The List**.)
4. Horseplay in lab = no lab and a roll (with butter, optional).
5. Anything resembling whining gets a Warning. I don't get paid to babysit whiny babies. If you have a *legitimate* gripe about something, see me. If you have to whine, check into another class - now.
6. A notebook check will only be taken with **organized** notebooks that have **3 rings and dividers**.
7. When you get homework questions **with answers given you have to show your work or no stamp!**
8. Your lab is a group project. You are ALL responsible for EVERY PART of the lab, and that it is turned in.
9. Use a cell phone, lose a cell phone - any time. Use an iPod during "uptime," it becomes a myPod.
10. You will learn and love the 7 Lab Commandments on the wall (& listed below), and then abide by them all of thy days.

## VII lab commandments

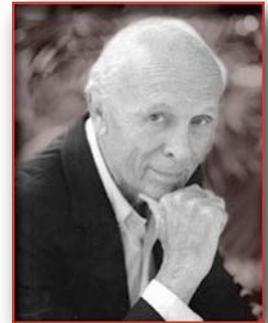
- i. Don't horseplay.
- ii. Labs, *when written out*, will be written out on graph paper only (unless otherwise told).
- iii. Don't confer with others outside your group, ever. You and your lab partners are alone in the universe.
- iv. Write the sacred data only in pen.
- v. You may write out labs in any color or combinations of colors except one — **red**.
- vi. When you correct a mistake on your data, make only **one** line through the bad data, and write to the side of it the good data, implying... Don't obliterate, erase, white-out, or transfer the sacred data.
- vii. Enjoy thyself.



## six pillars of character

You may forget some of the things you learn in this class, but I hope you always remember these. I'll hold you to these; you hold me to them, as well:

1. *trustworthiness*
2. *respect*
3. *responsibility*
4. *fairness*
5. *caring*
6. *citizenship*



Before you do anything, ask yourself:  
**Would PETER THOMAS do this?**

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CLASS:

- 1) We will be talking openly about some very disturbing things. I need your maturity.
- 2) I am concerned that this class might make you jaded to the awful reality of murder and other heinous crimes. I need you to remember that all these people are human beings with friends and families who have been devastated by what happened.
- 3) We will see videos this school year, all of them representing real case studies in forensics, all of which will show you the real evidence, real victims, and real forensic scientists, little of which I can show you in class directly (e.g. we cannot take field trips to real crime scenes). I need you to see the purpose of these videos is not to waste time in class but that they are real and valid learning tools in such a class as this.

for the parent (don't cut this part from the paper, please) STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this, and to prove it, here is my only slightly legible signature... ;)

X \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_