



## Introduction to Competitive Research Syllabus 2019-2020

Ms. Scanlon  
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### Course Description:

In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge. Within this course, students will work with a partner to carefully design and carry out an experiment that can be applied to furthering our knowledge of a real world problem. Students will perform extensive background research on their biological topic of choice, formulate a hypothesis, design a controlled experiment to test the hypothesis, and collect preliminary data to analyze trends. The culminating task of this this course is to write a proposal; a task that real life scientists must do in order to continue their research.

### Class Website:

The class website ([lscanlonscience.weebly.com](http://lscanlonscience.weebly.com)) is where students and parents will be able to stay up-to-date on all things related to class. Documents used in class, as well as a class calendar with assignment due dates can be found on the site. It will be updated frequently to reflect what is covered in class.

### Pupil Path

All students and parents are responsible for signing up for Pupil Path.

### Resources

Students will receive training in various software packages which will help to enhance the quality of their written and visual presentation skills. Some of these packages include: Word Processing on MS Word, graphing and statistical analysis on Excel, and multimedia presentations on MS PowerPoint. In addition, students will learn to access and use many Internet and E-library based databases.

### Responsibilities:

This is an extremely rigorous course that stresses the importance of proper time management. Students must turn work in on assigned dates in order to allow adequate time for revisions and rewrites. Several times a year, students may need to go to outside libraries to further their research. (Parental help and support is important in this area.)

No task is ever assigned without adequate time to complete it. Once a student falls behind it is very difficult to catch up. Students are given project schedules for each assignment that are either handed out or included in their class notes. The students will be competing in outside competitions and there are no extensions allowed for any reason. I am always available to help students with the timely completion of their tasks. If your child is having problems, please urge him/her to meet with me **far in advance** of due dates. **If there are serious problems, please do not hesitate to call or email.**

### Required Materials:

- ⊗ 1-1.5" binder or notebook and folder solely for research
- ⊗ \*STEM Student Research Handbook (NSTA Press) ISBN: 1936137240
- ⊗ Lab binder – discussed later

**Attendance and Late/Missing Work:**

Students are expected to be on time to class every day. Students are responsible for work missed due to absences. One day will be given for each day of absence. Extended absences will be dealt with on a case to case basis. **Because assignments are given far in advance of due dates, last minute problems are NOT ACCEPTABLE reasons for late assignments.** Late assignments will be docked 10% for every day that it is late up to 5 days. If an assignment is over a week late, it will receive at most, half of the possible points of the assignment.

**Grading Policy**

- ☼ Notebook Checks: .....25%
  - Notebooks and lab binders will be checked each marking period. Rubrics will be provided when lab binders are set up. It is up to the research group to constantly update their binder
- ☼ Classwork: .....15%
  - This includes (but is not limited to):
    - Weekly research plans (discussed later), participation
- ☼ Work Products: .....60%
  - This includes (but is not limited to):
    - Proposals, papers, posters, presentations

**Classroom Rules**

- ☼ In addition to the rules set by Forest Hills High School, students must also follow the 3R's
  - **Be Ready:** Come prepared to class with materials and ready to work at the start of class
  - **Be Responsible:** Follow classroom procedures, meet appropriate deadlines, work safely and carefully in the lab
    - **\*\*For students involved in outside competitions, there are no extensions allowed for any reason**
  - **Be Respectful:** Be kind to one another during class activities/discussions

**Remind!**

In addition to the class website, the app Remind will be used as another form of communication. This allows for the teacher to message students and parents, and vice versa. For more information, see the class website.

**CLASS CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Help:**

- ☼ By appointment

**Academic Integrity:**

As written in the annual student planner, "To help students achieve their maximum academic potential, Forest Hills Secondary School promotes an environment which fosters integrity and honorable conduct. Administrators, faculty, students and parents share the responsibility for maintaining an atmosphere in which personal accountability is valued." With this statement in mind, students must maintain work that is theirs alone and does not violate the academic integrity policy. Please refer to the handbook regarding the consequences and procedures used when an academic integrity violation has occurred.

## Parent/Guardian Contact Sheet

### I HAVE READ AND REVIEWED THE SYLLABUS FOR Ms. SCANLON'S INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIVE RESEARCH CLASS.

Student name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature

Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Guardian

☼ Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Guardian

☼ Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Sensitivities:

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Any other pertinent information?

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