

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description: Criminal justice is an elective one-hour social studies course. Students who satisfactorily complete this course will earn on Social Studies credit. The criminal justice course is designed to give students a general knowledge of the criminal justice system and law enforcement. This class will cover a variety of topics and themes ranging from criminal/juvenile law, civil law, gangs, and family law. This class will examine how historical and current legal cases/decisions affect social values, beliefs, and actions. As the course proceeds, students will use reading in the text, outside readings, films, mock trials, etc. to explore the law in America and increase his/her knowledge about the law and constitutional rights.

Instructional Philosophy: This course will be conducted using a variety of educational methods: lecture/discussion, oral/visual presentations, role-playing, mock trial, and cooperative learning activities, etc. Students will work independently on all projects and are responsible for all reading assignments so that they can actively participate in classroom discussion. Students should be able to demonstrate a general understanding of the concepts studied.

Student assessment will be based on individual work, tests, quizzes, written assignments, presentations, and student participation in class activities on a daily basis. Students will need to demonstrate a knowledge of the concepts studied by applying those concepts to the corresponding projects and tests as well as by participating in classroom discussion or events.

Course Goals:

1. Provide the student with a general understanding of civic life and government.
2. Help the student create a solid knowledge base about law and politics.
3. Create a desire and ability to participate in public life.
4. Help the student to develop critical thinking and communication skills as well as develop analytical skills such as problem solving, legal reasoning & values clarification.
5. Develop positive attitudes concerning the ability of citizens and the rule of law.

Benchmarks By Quarter:

First Quarter

1. Analyze the difference between laws and values.
2. Assess and analyze the different types of laws.
3. Describe the make-up of the legislative body within the United States as well as how laws are created internationally.
4. Assess the ability of advocates and lobbyists to effectively press on issue or cause.
5. Assess, analyze, and evaluate the various methods for settling disputes.
6. Describe the various types of courts found within the United States court system.

Second Quarter

1. Describe the nature of crime in America.
2. Analyze the relationship between substance abuse and crime.
3. Describe various ways to prevent and report crime.
4. Analyze the various classifications of both State and Federal Crimes as well as the parties to Crimes.
5. Analyze and assess the various types of crimes against the person.
6. Analyze and assess the various types of crimes against property.

Third Quarter

1. Assess the various types of defenses available to defendants.
2. Describe the various stages of the criminal investigation process.
3. Describe the pre-trial procedures.
4. Explain the various parts of the criminal trial process.
5. Assess the types and effectiveness of the sentencing and corrections process within our criminal justice system.
6. Define the term juvenile and assess the juvenile justice system in the United States.
7. Explain how terrorism has effected the law.

Fourth Quarter

1. Describe how law has affected the American Family.
2. Assess, analyze, and evaluate the law concerning marriage.
3. Explain the legal responsibilities placed on parents and children.
4. Describe how the law is used during a separation, divorce, or custody issue.

Major Course Assignments and Projects:

1. There could be many major projects and assignments as the year progresses, such as reports, mock trials, tests, quizzes and daily student homework.
Ongoing Assignment: Silent Sustained Reading Every Friday

Assessment Plan:

40%	Homework and Classroom Participation
30%	Tests and Quizzes
20%	Notebooks, Reports etc.
10%	Final Exam

Classroom Expectations:

Students should be in class and in their seat ready to work when the bell rings. If a student is not in their seat when the bell rings then a tardy will be given. The class is not dismissed until the teacher has dismissed it and students will remain in their seats until instructed to do otherwise. Students are not allowed to speak unless they raise their hands; other rules involving speech may change at the teachers' discretion. There are no food or drinks allowed in the classroom, and student found having food or drinks (gum, candy, soda, chips, etc.) will lose their participation points for that day and repeated abuses will result in a write up. Students who come to class unprepared will also lose their participation points for the day. Also, a lack of student effort on major projects (outside drawings, etc.) may also result in a write-up since the projects span a long period of time.

Supplies and Materials Needed:

1. Pencils #2 and erasers.
2. Notebook
3. Folder with pockets

Required/Recommended Readings: Students are required to read one book per semester for a book review. The list of books available for class can be accessed through the Central High School webpage. Click on Learning Resource Center, then Core Class Reading for a list of books for Social Studies.

Homework Policy and Grading Scale: Please refer to the Student Handbook for the Homework Policy. The grading scale is as follows:

A	100-95	C	76-73
A-	94-90	C-	72-70
B+	89-87	D+	69-67
B	86-83	D	66-63
B-	82-80	D-	62-60
C+	79-77	F	59-0

Extra Help: Extra help is always provided in class during projects. If a student needs help outside of those times than I am usually available before school around 7 a.m. Students may also sign up for the P.A.S.S. program on the appropriate day.

Time and Place to be reached by Parent: A list and description of what your child is doing in my class may be found at the following web address:

<http://new.schoolnotes.com/>

If you need to reach me you may call the school at 431-2616 Ext. 4139. My planning period is 1st period so the best time to reach me would be between 7-8:40 a.m.