



University High School

Course Syllabus for Law and Legal

Texts: Street Law: A Course in Practical Law, 6th Edition, West Publishing Co., 1999

Prerequisites: None

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Course Description:

This course is designed to give students a better knowledge of legal principles involved in everyday living. Topics will include Statutory Law, Case Law, types of crimes, enforcement, punishment, and the court systems. Civil Law, torts, juvenile law, and individual rights and liberties will be explored.

Course Content:

The class will contain lectures, readings, videos, discussions, community speakers, written work and mock trials.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a practical understanding of law and the legal system that will be of use to students in their everyday lives.
2. To improve understanding of the fundamental principles and values underlying our Constitution, laws, and legal system.
3. To promote awareness of current issues and controversies relating to law and the legal system.
4. To encourage effective and informed citizen participation in our legal system.
5. To bring about a greater sense of justice, tolerance, and fairness.
6. To develop a willingness and an ability to resolve disputes through informal and, where necessary, formal mechanisms.
7. To improve basic skills, including critical thinking and reasoning, communication, observation, and problem solving.
8. To improve understanding of the roles that laws, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and the legal system play in our society.
9. To provide exposure to the many vocational opportunities that exist within the legal system.

Evaluation Criteria:

Tests	300
Homework/In-Class Work	200
General Class Participation	250
Participation in Mock Trials	250
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	1000

Grading Scale:

A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	599 or below

Course Requirements:

1. **Tests (30%):** Tests will be based on lectures, discussions, readings, videos, community speakers, and written work. **NO make-ups will be allowed for tests unless you have an excused absence. (Refer to NOTES below.)**
2. **Homework/In-Class Work (20%):** This consists of written in-class activities and out-of-class homework. Outside homework will be assigned during class. You must complete these outside assignments prior to class on the day they are due (due dates will be given when the work is assigned). Outside assignments will be turned in at the beginning of the class period. **Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have an excused absence. (Refer to NOTES below.)**
3. **General Class Participation (25%):** Attendance and participation are crucial to student success in this class. You are encouraged to participate actively. Class participation grades will be scored on random days throughout the trimester. Therefore, it is imperative that you be present in class and participate on a daily basis. Excused absences do not count against your class participation grade. However, if you have an unexcused absence, you will receive a ZERO for class participation if it is scored that day! **Note that the general class participation grade is based on preparation for and participation in the classroom activities. To do well in this, you must be prepared!**
4. **Participation in Mock Trials (25%):** To take part in Mock Trials, you must be present and work diligently with your team. **Note that the participation grade for Mock Trials is based on your preparation for and participation in the Mock Trials – not whether the team wins or loses! To do well in this, you must work diligently with your group and be prepared!**
5. **Extra Credit:** You will be allowed to do up to a maximum of 2½% extra credit. You must have any extra credit approved by me before beginning it. At that time we will set the requirements to be met. The latest extra credit may be turned in is the last day of the trimester. Under no circumstances will it be allowed after that date. Yes, it is possible for a single project to be worth up to 2½%, depending upon the content and how well it is done. To receive the full 2½%, the work must be outstanding. You may also do smaller projects and they will be added together. **However, remember that – at the maximum – the highest your final grade can be raised is by having 2½% added to your final percentage in the course!!! I HIGHLY SUGGEST that you do not depend on this to “get a good grade” in this course!**

Notes to Students:

- ✓ **ALL OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS CLASS SHALL BE HONORED. NO EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS “THAT’S RIDICULOUS!” WILL BE TOLERATED. ANY SUCH OUTBREAKS SHALL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY! NOTE: Honoring a person’s right to free speech does not mean that you have to agree with what is said. Debate is highly encouraged!!**
- ✓ **All cell phones must be turned off or silenced while in the classroom. No playing of games or texting on cell phones is allowed.** Anyone breaking these rules will have their cell phone confiscated the remainder of the class period. If this rule is broken a second time, the phone will be confiscated and turned in to the office. It will be up to you to retrieve it.
- ✓ **No use of other mechanical devices is allowed.** Anyone breaking this rule will have the device confiscated the remainder of the class period. If this rule is broken a second time, the device will be confiscated and turned in to the office. It will be up to you to retrieve it.
- ✓ **NO LATE HOMEWORK, MAKING UP TESTS, ETC. WILL BE ALLOWED IF AN ABSENCE IS UNEXCUSED.**
- ✓ If an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** was **unexpected** (i.e.> illness...), you will have a **grace period of 2 class days** to turn in any homework assigned and/or due while you were gone and/or to take a make-up test.
- ✓ **If you will be missing class because of a sports event, conference, etc., of which you know in advance, you must get homework from me before leaving and turn it in either before you leave or the first class day after the event. You must also make arrangements beforehand regarding any tests you will miss.**
- ✓ Regarding **ANY EXCUSED ABSENCE** days, you may also e-mail me at the e-mail address listed below (a) to attach and turn in homework, or (b) to find out if new homework was assigned while you were gone.
- ✓ **I reserve the right to make any necessary programmatic changes. Advance notice will be given in the event of change.**
- ✓ **Please see me if you need help. Do not wait until it is too late!**

I, the student, have read the Course Description, Requirements and Notes to Students above and will fully abide by them.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN
SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

**NOTE: ONE COPY OF THIS MUST BE KEPT IN YOUR FOLDER AND
ONE COPY – WITH REQUIRED SIGNATURES – MUST BE RETURNED TO ME.**