

Criminal Law / Mock Trial

Mr. O'Connor

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Google Classroom code: ckvvljy

Criminal Law / Mock Trial is a class for students interested in the legal system, court procedures, and understanding law in everyday life, as well as developing public speaking and critical thinking skills necessary for conducting a Mock Trial. Using the popular "Street Law" curriculum and Mock Trial case materials developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, students will learn about the American legal system through traditional study and by preparing and participating in an in-class criminal Mock Trial. Participation on River City's Mock Trial competition team is NOT required.

Text: *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law* (McGraw Hill, 9th Edition, 2016)

Course Goal:

Develop a practical understanding of law and the legal system that will be of use to students in their everyday lives.

Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Understand the roles that law, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and the legal system play in our society.
- Understand the fundamental principles and values underlying our Constitution, laws, and legal system.
- Develop a greater sense of justice, tolerance, and fairness.
- Understand the need for effective citizen participation in our legal system.
- Improve critical thinking, reasoning, communication, observation, and problem-solving skills through participation in mock trials.

Fall	Unit	Street Law
August-Sept	Introduction to Law	Ch. 1-6
September	Crime and Criminal Law	Ch. 7-11
Oct-Nov	The Criminal Law Process: Investigation, Trial, Sentencing and Corrections	Ch. 12-17
Oct 15	Mock Trial Distributed (date approximate)	
Oct 15	Midterm Exam	
Nov 23-27	Break	
Nov-Dec	Civil Law	Ch. 18-19
Dec. 16	Final Mock Trial (in-person or virtual)	

Academic Progress:

1. Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned divided by the total points assigned. Every assignment, quiz, exam, essay, group work, notebook, or project will be assigned points and grades will be earned on the following scale:

GRADING SCALE			
	Grade	Percentage	Four Point Rubric Score
Advanced	A	90 – 100%	4
Proficient	B	80 – 89%	3
Basic	C	70 – 79%	2
Below Basic	D	60 – 69%	1
Far Below Basic	F	Below 60%	0

All History Social Science instructors use category grading weights similar to the following:

- Tests and Quizzes 40%
- Homework/ Classwork 35%
- Final Exam/Mock Trial 20%
- Class Participation 5%

2. At least one grade will be recorded in Aeries each week.
3. Full credit is only given to work turned in on time unless there is an excused absence. Instructors are under no obligation to accept unexcused late work.
4. **The Mock Trial final is a performance final and is mandatory to pass the class. There is no separate Senior Final in the spring.**

Supplies:

- ◆ 8-1/2" x 11" spiral notebook with at least 150 pages
- ◆ #2 pencils
- ◆ Regular pens with blue or black ink

Behavior Expectations:

1. Be on time.
2. Bring your notebook and supplies to class everyday.
3. Do your eating, drinking, and personal grooming outside this classroom.
4. TREAT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IN THIS CLASSROOM WITH RESPECT.

For online sessions (Google Meet or Zoom): I expect students to enter with their mics muted. Be respectful of everyone in the session, including guest speakers. If there are breakout sessions in Zoom, students should have cameras on.

Classroom Consequences:

1. First offense: warning.
2. Second offense: lost participation points.
3. Third offense: exclusion from the class session; instructor calls home.
4. Fourth offense: exclusion and referral to VP.

Note: An offense that is subject to suspension can result in an immediate referral to the Vice-Principal's office AT ANY TIME without warning or detention.

I have read the above course outline and classroom rules. I understand that I am responsible for following the rules of this classroom as well as the policies of the school as a whole, subject to the disciplinary decisions of the instructor or administrator. I will keep this paper in my notebook at all times.

X_____

PRINT STUDENT NAME

Date

I have reviewed the course outline and classroom rules with my son / daughter.

X_____

Parent Signature

Date