

LEGAL SYSTEMS AND CONCEPTS
Ms. Toni Wotherly
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The primary content for the course pertains to the examination of the American legal system and the nature of specific rights granted under the United States Constitution. Content should include, but is not limited to, the historical antecedents of laws and the basis for the creation of laws, the background, principles and applications of the United States Constitution, the rights protected by the Constitution and precedent-setting cases related to these rights, the process for enacting criminal laws at the state and local levels, the stages of the criminal justice system, the government and private agencies which provide services to individuals accused of crimes, the citizen's role in the legal system, the role of women and diverse cultural groups within the justice system, and careers in the justice system.

Materials Needed Every Day: Blue/Black Pen AND Pencil
Notebook Paper
One Ream of Copy Paper
Three-ring Binder (1 ½" – 2" preferred)

Grades: All grades are figured on a total point scale and calculated into the following percentages:

Above 90 A 89 – 80 B 79 – 70 C 69 – 60 D Below 60 F

Points are earned for:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| a) Unit assessments | d) Semester final exam |
| b) Classroom assignments | e) Classroom participation |
| c) Mock trials (a minimum of 2 per quarter) | |

Class Behavior: The following are simple classroom rules all are expected to follow:

"I would rather have students fear my disappointment than my discipline."

Mr. Phil Bigler, National Teacher of the Year 1998

1. Be Ready
 - a. Come to class, ***with your ID on and your phone off***, prepared with all classroom materials
 - b. Be seated by the time the bell rings.
 - c. Look at the board for any instructions and objectives
2. Be Respectful
 - a. If the teacher or another student is talking, only one voice should be heard
 - b. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak, unless instructed otherwise
 - c. Abstain from all profane language
3. Be Responsive
 - a. Be prepared to be an active participant in class
 - b. For groups, every person in a group must do his/her fair share
 - c. Follow instructions the first time
4. Be Responsible
 - a. Take responsibility for your own actions
 - b. Know what your assignments are and when they are due
 - c. Keep the classroom and the school clean

"Discipline yourself and others won't have to."

Mr. John Wooden, UCLA Basketball Coach

Make-up Work: The district absentee policy will be strictly followed. Excused absences (i.e. not truant) will receive one day per class period missed plus one day to make up work. If you miss an A or B day, your work will be expected the following A or B day (two school days later) **WORK MAY ALWAYS BE EMAILED TO MS. WORTHERLY**. Any work missed due to extra-curricular activities **must be handed in prior to leaving** unless special arrangements have been made with me, and all work assigned during the absence must be handed in on the assigned due date. **You are responsible for the work done while you are gone. If you have been or will be gone, please e-mail your assignments to Ms. Wotherly. DURING MOCK TRIALS: You will be allowed to make up your part of the trial the following class. If you are absent after that, you will be assigned a research project to make up the grade for the trial.**

Testing/Mock trials: Tests and mock trials will be announced several days in advance. Only those absent on test date will be allowed to take the test at a later date. See above for Mock Trial make up rules.

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Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Trial Procedure
 - A. Steps in A Trial
 - B. Theory of the Case and Opening Statements
 - C. Opening Statements, Witness Examinations, Closing Statements
 - D. Rules of Evidence and Procedure
 - E. Objections

- II. Mock Trials
 - A. Role of the Jury
 - B. Basic Trials: Criminal and Civil

Appropriate attire

Appropriate courtroom attire is required. If you have a suit, wear it. If you don't, please do not feel that you must go out and purchase new clothing for the trial. Just follow these guidelines:

Male:

- Nice, neat pants or khakis, neat button-down collared shirt (**ATTORNEYS: wear with a tie**), and/or sweater, suit jacket or sport coat
- Neat, clean shoes (if shoes have laces, lace them!)

Female:

- Nice, neat pants, skirt, or dress, blouse or top, suit jacket or sweater
- Neat, clean shoes (if shoes have laces, lace them!)

Both male and female:

- Neat appearance (i.e. ironed and clean)
- No T-shirts, denim, sweats, sneakers, or flip flops
- Also, if it's against school dress code, it's not allowed at mock trial!

TURN THIS SHEET IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR

SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

With parents' help and support, this will be an interesting and productive year. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call. In order to ensure that parents have read and understand the information in this syllabus, please return the signed form below.

I have read and understand the syllabus and expectations for the **Legal Systems** course. I understand that given the course requirements and the amount of actual class time, the students will be required to read outside of class, as some of the material will NOT be covered in class, but may appear on Unit Assessments and Exams. **I also understand the requirements for attire and make-up policy during mock trials.**

Duval County Public School Guidelines require parental permission for students to view materials that carry other than a “G” rating. In this course some of the videos that appropriately address the topics presented in this course have a PG-13 rating. If you have concerns or questions about videos shown in the class, please contact me.

Please select your choice by checking and signing the bottom.

_____ Permission is granted to view PG-13 and lower rated videos relating to the course.

_____ Permission is declined for all videos relating to this course.

_____/_____/_____
Print student name Student’s signature Date

_____/_____/_____
Print parent name Parent’s signature Date

Contact number

Parent E-mail Address

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