

Introduction to Law

Mr. J. Myers

2012-2013

Course Outline

Introduction to Law offers students interested in law and/or law enforcement an introduction to legal theory and a history of the evolution of law. The American legal system is the main focus of the course with topics such as the U.S. Constitution, the Judicial Branch, Landmark Supreme Court Decisions, and Criminal Law and Procedure comprising the core concepts of this Social Studies Elective.

Unit One	Introduction to Law and the Legal System	Page
Chapter 1	What Is Law?	4
Unit Two	The U.S. Constitution	
Chapter 36	Introduction to Constitutional Law	440
<i>Appendix</i>	<i>The Constitution of the U.S.</i>	571
Unit Three	Individual Rights and Liberties	
Chapter 37	Freedom of Speech	445
Chapter 38	Freedom of the Press	465
Chapter 39	Expression in Special Places	472
Chapter 40	Freedom of Religion	477
	Right to Bear Arms	
Chapter 41	Due Process	484
Chapter 42	The Right to Privacy	
Unit Four	The Judicial Branch	
Chapter 5	The Courts	46
	<i>Landmark Supreme Court Decisions</i>	490
Unit Five	Criminal Law	
Chapter 7	Crime in America	74
Chapter 8	Introduction to Criminal Law	100
Chapter 9	Crimes Against the Person	107
Chapter 10	Crimes Against Property	115
Chapter 11	Defenses	126
Unit Six	Criminal Procedure	
Chapter 12	Criminal Justice Process: <i>The Investigation</i>	133
Chapter 13	Criminal Justice Process: <i>Proceeding Before Trial</i>	155
Chapter 14	Criminal Justice Process: <i>The Trial</i>	166
Chapter 15	Criminal Justice Process: <i>Sentencing and Corrections</i>	173

Textbook:

Street Law: A Course in Practical Law-*Seventh Edition*. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill. Arbetman and O'Brien. 2005.

General Guidelines

Absences:

If you are absent from class due to an illness, field trip, co-curricular activity, or any other reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes, handouts, and/or assignments from the previous day(s). You will have **five days** from the date you return to school to make up any missed work. Late work may be submitted, but will be assessed based on the value of the assignment. Half-credit will be available for homework and classwork assignments worth 30 points or less. A penalty of 10% per day will be assessed on all other assignments. Failure to make up assigned work within the allotted time period will result in a **zero** for the assignment.

Moodle

I will be maintaining an Introduction to Law Moodle page (Myers – Intro to Law) throughout the semester. The enrollment key password is _____. If you are absent, you will be able go to the Intro to Law page to see what you missed and obtain any handouts, worksheets, and/or notes.

Expectations:

1. Be prompt and prepared for class.
2. Be an active participant in class discussions.
3. Have respect for yourself and others.
4. Be responsible.
5. All school rules, as outlined in your student handbook, are followed in this classroom.

Privileges

If you need to use the restroom, try to do so before class begins or at the beginning or end of the period. Only one student will be allowed out of the classroom at a time. Be sure to “sign out” and “sign in” on the sheet provided. The same rules apply to lockers.

Grading Policy

Your Marking Period grade will be based on total points accumulated. The following will be used to determine your point total:

Chapter Tests

Quizzes

Writing Assignments

Homework

Each student is expected to keep track of his/her grades either by maintaining a grade sheet or by accessing the **Home Access Center (Parent Portal)**. Please keep in mind that there is no “grade floor” this year. Your report card grade will be the grade you have earned and can be below a 50%.

The *Introduction to Law* course also includes a comprehensive final exam comprised of multiple-choice and matching questions.

Grading Standard

A	90%-100%
B	80%- 89%
C	70%- 79%
D	60%- 69%
E	0 - 59%

Extra Credit

Students will have the opportunity to gain a maximum of two extra credit points (percentage) each marking period by completing a reaction paper after watching an approved “law-based” movie. After viewing the film, students will write a two page, double-spaced paper summarizing the film and discussing its accuracy and significance. Reaction papers may be turned in at any time up to the last week of the respective marking period. **No extra-credit reaction papers will be accepted during the final week of each marking period.**

