

Civil Law Course Syllabus

Course Information

0971 Civil Law

Credit: .50

Semester course

Teacher Contact Information

Mrs. Heather Merckens, Huron High School, Room 206

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Office Hours: 6th Period Planning (12:44-1:34) or Upon Arrangement After School

Course Description

This course concentrates on the structure and function of our Federal and State court systems, and analyzes civil rights and civil liberties as defined by the Constitution and interpreted by the Supreme Court. Critical thinking, analytical writing, listening and public speaking skills will be enhanced through a variety of activities, including individual student visits to Judge Steuk's Huron Municipal courtroom, a mock trial and guest speakers in the legal field. Topics will include the differences between civil and criminal law, the importance of juries and lawyers in our system and important cases involving the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, discrimination and the right to privacy.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

This Course is Open to grades 10, 11 & 12

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (from the National Standards for Civics and Government)

- I. What are civic life, politics, and government?
 - A. What is civic life? What is politics? What is government? Why are governments and politics necessary? What purposes should government serve?
 - B. What are the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government?
 - C. What are the nature and purposes of constitutions?
 - D. What are the alternative ways of organizing constitutional governments?
- II. What are the foundations of the American political system?
 - A. What is the American idea of constitutional government?
 - B. What are the distinctive characteristics of American society?
 - C. What is American political culture?
 - D. What values and principles are basic to American constitutional democracy?
- III. How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?
 - A. How are power and responsibility distributed, shared, and limited in the government established by the United States Constitution?
 - B. How is the national government organized and what does it do?

- C. How are state and local governments organized and what do they do?
 - D. What is the place of law in the American constitutional system?
 - E. How does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- IV. What is the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs?
- A. How is the world organized politically?
 - B. How do the domestic politics and constitutional principles of the United States affect its relations with the world?
 - C. How has the United States influenced other nations, and how have other nations influenced American politics and society?
- V. What are the roles of the citizens in American democracy?
- A. What is citizenship?
 - B. What are the rights of citizens?
 - C. What are the responsibilities of citizens?
 - D. What civic dispositions or traits of private and public character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?
 - E. How can citizens take part in civic life?

Required Textbooks and Materials

Arbetman, Lee, and Edward L. O'Brien. *Street Law: a Course in Practical Law*. New York: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2005. Print.

Classroom Materials

Students must bring textbooks and binders with them to class each day.

Online study and enrichment materials are available at http://glencoe.com/sec/socialstudies/street_law/index.php

Activities and Assignments

The following are the Weekly Readings and topics for this one semester class.

<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
Read 2-18	What is Law? Civil v. Criminal? International?
Read 40-71	Settling Disputes/Overview of Court System
“	Importance of Lawyers & Legal Profession
Read 440-464	Constitutional Law/Free Speech
Read 465-483	Other 1 st Amendment Freedoms
Read 484-498	Privacy, Due Process, Abortion
Read 133-165	Process of Being Arrested
Read 166-209	Trial by Jury & Punishments
“	Juvenile Offenders (Short periods-OGT Week)
Read 499-541	Rational Basis/Strict Scrutiny & Example Cases of Discrimination
Read 100-114	Parties & Types of Crimes Against the Person
Read 115-132	Other types of Crimes
Read 210-229	Torts/Civil Wrongs
Read 230-249	Intentional Torts
Read 250-260	Negligence
Read 261-273	Strict Liability & Public Policy
Review and Exams	

Grading Policy

Each quarter grade will consist of:

- 70% Tests, Quizzes, and Projects/Assessments (larger and more involved than daily assignments)
- 30% Daily homework and summaries, class work, binder checks, and participation in/contributions to group work and daily activities

Each semester grade will consist of:

- 40% 1st quarter,
- 40% 2nd quarter, and
- 20% Semester Exam.

Academic Policies

Make-up exams, tests and homework must be completed according to school policy (in as many days as the student was absent). Students are responsible for their own make-up work.

Classroom Procedures

Extra credit opportunities are offered infrequently, so students should take advantage of them if and when they arise.
