

Civil Law Course Syllabus

Course Information

0971 Civil Law
Credit: .50
Semester course

Teacher Contact Information

Mrs. Heather Merckens
419-433-1234
hmerckens@huronhs.com

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

This course will be offered during school years beginning with an even year (i.e., 2010-11, 2012-13)

Prerequisite: Open to grades 11 & 12

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.

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?
- How are power and responsibility distributed, shared, and limited in the government established by the United States Constitution?
 - How is the national government organized and what does it do?
 - How are state and local governments organized and what do they do?
 - What is the place of law in the American constitutional system?
 - 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?
- How is the world organized politically?
 - How do the domestic politics and constitutional principles of the United States affect its relations with the world?
 - 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?
- What is citizenship?
 - What are the rights of citizens?
 - What are the responsibilities of citizens?
 - What civic dispositions or traits of private and public character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?
 - 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.

Suggested Course Materials

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

Assignments & Academic Calendar

| <u>Assignment:</u> | <u>Topic:</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| Read 2-18 | What is Law? Civil vs. 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 |

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|--------------|---|
| 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.

| <i>HURON HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALE</i> | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|--|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Letter</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Points</i> | | <i>Letter</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Points</i> |
| A+ | 100%--98% | 4 | | C+ | 79%--77% | 2.3 |
| A | 97%--93% | 4 | | C | 76%--73% | 2 |
| A- | 92%--90% | 3.7 | | C- | 72%--70% | 1.7 |
| B+ | 89%--87% | 3.3 | | D+ | 69%--67% | 1.3 |
| B | 86%--83% | 3 | | D | 66%--63% | 1 |
| B- | 82%--80% | 2.7 | | D- | 62%--60% | 0.7 |
| | | | | F | 59%--0 | 0 |

Course & Instructor 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.

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