

Houston High School Course Syllabus



Course: Criminal Justice I/Room M219
Teacher: Mr. Chad Uhiren
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Dear Students and Parents:

My name is Mr. Chad Uhiren (pronounced 'you-hi-ren') and I am the Criminal Justice teacher at Houston High School. I attended the University of Memphis where I graduated with high honors and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice & Criminology as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. I went on to complete a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice & Criminology as well as a Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management. Prior to coming to HHS, I worked as a Memphis Police Officer for over three years and remain a Reserve Officer with the Department. The most effective way to reach me is through e-mail. I will try to respond as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime during the year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Course Description:

Criminal Justice I is the first course in *Law Enforcement Services and Correctional Services* programs of study. It serves as a comprehensive survey of how the law enforcement, legal, and correctional systems interact with each other in the United States. Current issues will be researched in the context of local, state, and federal laws. Investigative skills will be developed in the areas of drug use, incident documentation, and basic crime scene investigation. Additionally, upon completion of the course, students will understand the importance of communications and professionalism in law enforcement.

Course Requirements:

With this being an introductory level course, there are no prerequisites. With that being said, the purpose of this course, as well as subsequent courses (*Criminal Justice II* and *Criminal Justice-Dual Enrollment*), is to introduce the student to the United States criminal justice system, with specific attention given to careers within the areas of law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Students with such career aspirations will benefit immensely from these courses.

Textbooks:

Introduction to Criminal Justice, 16th Ed. (Siegel & Worrall).

****Students should have online access to the textbook via ClassLink****

Class Supplies

Three-ring binder, Paper, Writing Utensil

*Students should come prepared for class every day.

Grading:

Tests/Projects	50%
Classwork	40%
Quizzes	10%

Make-up Policy:

When you are absent, you must see the teacher before or after class to obtain any make-up work. Students are allowed the same number of days absent to make up assignments. It is the student's responsibility to get any missed notes from lectures.

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP ANY WORK MISSED DUE TO ABSENCES!!!!

Classroom Rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Follow Directions
3. Raise your hand to speak
4. Do not interfere with learning

Consequences:

Consequences are given for a classroom rule violation and are as follows:

First offense:	Warning
Second offense:	Student-teacher conference
Third offense:	Parent-Teacher Conference
Fourth offense:	Discipline Referral to the office

****Unacceptable behavior during class could result in a forfeit of all future participation in activities, field trips, etc. If behavior is extremely offensive, steps may be skipped in order to adequately resolve the problem behavior. ****

Criminal Justice I Topics Covered:

1st Quarter:

- **Criminal Justice System Overview**
- **Measurement of Crime**
- **Crime Data Sources**
- **Historical Development of Law in America**
- **Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure**

2nd Quarter

- **History of Police in America**
- **Public Policing**
- **Private Security**
- **The Police: Organization, Role, and Function**
- **Contemporary Issues in Policing**

3rd Quarter

- **Criminology**
- **Theories of Crime**
- **Victimology**
- **Police and the Rule of Law**
- **Police and the Constitution**

4th Quarter

- **Court Structure**
- **Court Personnel**
- **Pretrial Procedures**
- **Trial Procedures**
- **Sentencing**

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes made will be announced to the student in a timely manner. Further, throughout this course, we may discuss mature topics such as rape, child predators, prostitutes, etc. and I expect students to handle such in a mature fashion. Students may also be introduced to images of real crime scene photos that may contain gory images (blood, fluids, dead bodies, etc.). While I would like for all students to participate, if a student is uncomfortable viewing such images, then accommodations will be made.