

Houston High School Course Syllabus



Course: Criminal Justice III/ Room 219
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 two 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 course of the year. I look forward to hearing from you.

Course Description:

Criminal Justice III: Investigations is the final course designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in the sciences of criminal investigations. Students will learn terminology and investigation skills related to the crime scene, aspects of criminal behavior, and applications of the scientific inquiry to solve crimes. Utilizing the scientific inquiry method, students will obtain and analyze evidence through simulated crime scenes and evaluation of case studies. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to identify careers forensic science and criminology, summarize the laws that govern the application of forensic science, and draw key connections between the history of the forensic science and the modern legal systems.

Course Requirements:

Students who take this course must have already taken and successfully passed Criminal Justice I and II.

Textbooks:

Criminal Justice in Action(Gaines & Miller)

Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century (Schmallegger)

Class Supplies

Three-ring binder, Paper, Writing Utensil

*Students should come prepared for class every day.

Grading:

Tests	30%
Projects	20%
Class work/Quizzes	30%
Participation	20%

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. Tests/quizzes must be made up after school and will NOT be made up during class time.

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 III Concepts Covered

(Taken From: <http://www.tn.gov/education/cte/clusters.shtml>)

Scope/Development of Forensic Science

- **Explore history/contributions**
- **Define/explain criminalistics**
- **Identify 11 sections of forensic science**
- **Influence of media**
- **Evolution of the modern crime laboratory**

Career Planning

- **Identify occupations within forensic science**
- **Develop career profiles for three forensic science occupations**

Elements of Investigation

- **Identify emerging technologies/techniques in law enforcement**
- **Explain officer's roles/responsibilities on crime scenes**
- **Learn to identify physical evidence**
- **Discuss/explain "chain of evidence" and its importance**

Physical Evidence Analysis (relate to court cases)

- **Science of physical properties of matter**
- **Physical characteristics/composition of glass**
- **Forensic tools used in field sobriety and blood alcohol test**
- **Process for collecting/preserving toxicology evidence**
- **Tests performed for body fluids/stains at crime scene**
- **Techniques for body excavation**
- **Review autopsy reports**
- **Modern DNA testing and its effect on criminal justice**
- **Explore bloodstain patterns**
- **Compare/contrast physical and microscopic properties**
- **Explain automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS)**
- **Identify characteristics of bullet/cartridge casings on crime scenes**
- **Concepts of bullet trajectory in criminal investigations**
- **Techniques to collect gunpowder residue, shoe prints, tool/tire/bite marks**

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.