

# **Criminal Law and Justice**

**Social Studies Department- Anderson County High School**  
**Ms. Vasser**

Hello Parents & Students!

This social studies elective course has been designed to introduce students to the basics of the criminal justice system in America. Students will become experts on the law and criminal justice proceedings. We will also take an in-depth look at several interesting components of the criminal justice system and its history. During this one trimester course we will take a look at crime & punishment throughout history; how we have evolved, how we got to where we are today, and several famous criminals, crimes, & criminal proceedings that have left a lasting legacy. We will also take a modern look at crime and criminal proceedings through the use of current events and the modern criminal justice process. Students will also become involved in the criminal justice process as they take part in several interactive decision making exercises, learn about their rights, and partake in a mock trial simulation at the end of the trimester. We will also spend time studying & discussing professions in the criminal justice system for any students interested!

Note to Parents: There are subjects in this course that may be seen as a tad risqué (such as old punishment techniques or actions of criminals); however, the subjects will be dealt with in a mature, educational manner. Only subjects found to be pertinent to certain criminal cases or in the understanding of how mankind has evolved in dealing with punishments and justice will be brought forth in class. I hope we can handle all these in a mature way and allow them to be a part of the learning process, and that alone. If you may have any concerns dealing with this, PLEASE get in contact with me.

If you ever wish to get in contact with me, feel free to email me anytime at [Lauren.Vasser@anderson.kyschools.us](mailto:Lauren.Vasser@anderson.kyschools.us). You may also call me at school (502-839-5118) to leave me a voicemail or to speak to me directly during my planning period (2<sup>nd</sup> period, 9:43-10:54).

To stay informed of class information, our weekly snapshot (detailed synopsis of the day's class activities), and other important class materials (study guides, rubrics, etc) visit my teacher webpage <http://www.anderson.kyschools.us/LaurenVasser.aspx>. I have also created a Twitter page (@ACHSVasser) to keep students and parents informed of important dates, assignments, etc.

This will be an interesting trimester! Let's have fun and learn a lot!

Thank you,

Lauren Vasser

## Curriculum Outline:

### I. Intro to Class & Historical Connection

#### Mini Introduction Unit- Crime and Punishment Throughout History

- ♦ An introduction to class- procedures, class culture building, etc
- ♦ Large timeline assignment on Crime and Punishment throughout history including the following time periods:
  - Ancient Civilizations (Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, etc)
  - Middle & Dark Ages
  - Early Modern Era
  - Modern Era- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century

### II. An In-Depth Look at Our Criminal Justice System

#### Unit 1- Crime and Police

- ♦ Criminal Activity
  - Classification of crime
  - Crime Data
  - Crime Trends
  - Causes of Crime/ Crime Theories & Study of Criminology
- ♦ Role of Police in the Criminal Justice System
  - Police Structure
  - Role of Police
  - Police duties \*possible guest speaker
  - Forensics & Detective Work
  - Police and the Law

#### Unit 2- Courts and Correction

- ♦ Court System
  - Court Structure and Jurisdiction
  - Criminal Trial Process
  - Individuals Involved \*possible guest speakers
  - Rights of the accused
- ♦ Corrections
  - Sentencing & Role of the Judge/Jury
  - Types & Goals of Punishment
  - Life in the Correctional System

### III. Special Topics

#### Unit 3- Juvenile Justice & Kentucky Justice System

- ♦ Juvenile v. Adult
- ♦ Juveniles and the law
- ♦ Kentucky Court Structure and System
- ♦ Kentucky Legal Code

#### Mini Unit- Mock Trial Simulation

## You Will Need:

- A 3 ring binder to be used for this class only (bring it EVERYDAY). You will need the following sections (tab dividers are optional) for the binder:

- Bell Ringers & Exit Slips
- Weekly Assignments
- Notes

- Handouts
- Graded Work

- Pencil and/or Pen everyday.

## **Grading:**

40% Tests, Quizzes, & Projects

20% Weekly Assignments (True Crime Reflections, Criminal of the Week Analysis, Bell Ringers, and Exit Slips)

30% In Class Work

## 10% Mock Trial

### *Weekly Assignments:*

- Every Friday (or last day of the week we are at school), we will study a 'Criminal of the Week'. Upon entry into class, students will be given a reading, or we will watch a video clip about a criminal. A quick class discussion will follow about the crime and their involvement in the criminal justice system. Students will write a reflection and analysis. This will be kept in the weekly assignments section of their binder.
- Students will begin class on Mondays, by responding to a current event or other news story that deals with the Criminal Justice System. This will also be kept in their binder in the weekly assignments section. Students will provide an analysis of the crime, the criminal process, and a personal response. Some of these will be given to students by Ms. Vasser, but students may be responsible for bringing these in from time to time. I will announce a week in advance when that is the case and this will be a grade! I may also provide opportunities for extra credit through the Monday True Crime.
- There will be DAILY Bell Ringers and Exit Slips. These are for my use to formatively assess the student's mastery of that week's content, but they should also be used by the student to self-assess what they have learned. These will be taken up most days for my use, but returned the following day. Students are responsible for not losing these! They will be given a participation grade for these weekly. If a student is absent, they must write ABSENT to ensure points are not deducted.
- I will conduct notebook checks 4 times during the Trimester. During this time, I will check for the completed weekly assignments only. However, students need to make sure they are staying organized with all notes and returned assignments.

### *Assessments:*

- There will be three unit tests for this class (Unit 1- Crime and Police, Unit 2- Courts and Corrections, and Unit 3- Juvenile Justice and Kentucky Justice) This will be **open note, but completed individually in class** on an assigned date. These will be made up of mostly short answer and short essay questions. To be successful on these tests you **MUST** stay organized and keep all class materials. Questions will come directly from notes and handouts given in class!
- There will be several quizzes throughout the duration of the trimester. They will follow most of the major topics (crime & punishment throughout history, crime, police, courts, corrections, juvenile justice). These will **NOT be open note** and will be used to assess student's mastery of the topic. These will be returned and students will be a great resource for students throughout a unit.
- There will be two projects that count as assessments- A Criminology Project during Unit 1 (individual) and a Create Your Case Project during Unit 2 (group).
- There will also be at least one writing assignment per unit.
- The Mock Trial Simulation will count as a class assessment. During this activity, students will take on the roles of jurors, lawyers, witnesses, and judges in a criminal trial simulation. The trial itself and the work leading up to the trial will count as 10% of the trimester grade. I place great importance on this activity as it gives students the chance to be a part of the criminal trial process.
- Bell Ringers and Exit Slips will be used as formative assessments. Students will be given a participation grade for their work on these. Students can expect these daily!
- There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the trimester (20% of your final class grade per SBDM policy).

### *Make-Up Work and Late Work Policy:*

- If you are absent from class, you will have exactly **1 week** to turn in a missed assignment for *full credit*. If a missed assignment is turned in a week after the absence, only *half-credit* will be given. This is an extension of ACHS Policy on make-up work which requires only 3 days.
- To find out what was missed after an absence, look in the absent folders found in the front of the classroom. You will find a copy of any handouts you missed that day with your name on it. You will also find this information on the class website.
- **ANY** and **ALL** work not turned in the day it is due is considered late. You will have **ONE** day after the due date to turn in late work. After that one day extension, the assignment will only receive half-credit. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, but were here when it was assigned, **MUST** be turned in the day you return to receive full credit.
- If done correctly, completely, and is *only the work of the student*, I will always take late work or missing assignments. However, only half-credit will be given. The only way to ensure you receive full-credit for an assignment is to **TURN IT IN ON TIME**.

- Missed tests and quizzes may only be made up before or after school, during Bearcat 25, during club days, unless circumstances require otherwise.

## **Behavior Syllabus**

Ms. Vasser

### To be successful in this class, you must:

- 1) Give 100% each and every day.
- 2) Be **Responsible**.
- 3) Follow all Class Rules.
- 4) Never be afraid to ask questions!!

### Class Rules (aka Vasser's Values):

- 1) Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
- 2) Bring class materials everyday!
- 3) Be respectful of all peers and Ms. Vasser.
- 4) Do not disrupt the learning of your classmates.
- 5) Electronic devices only for instructional use at teacher discretion.
- 6) Listen and follow directions.
- 7) Ask Questions!

### Behavior Expectations:

I expect students to enter class on time and come prepared to learn. While I want you to enjoy yourself during class, that will occur through learning, not through chatting with friends, playing with a cell phone, sleeping, etc. I also expect you to give your classmates the opportunity to learn while in the room. Do not distract your classmates from learning. You are each in this room to learn and I want each of you to reach your highest potential!

If expectations are not met, the following will occur:

*First Offense:* I will give you a verbal warning. Behavior is to be corrected immediately.

*Second Offense:* I will call home and you will lose participation points.

*Third Offense:* No behavior should reach this point. If it does, a referral may be sent to the office.

### Daily Procedures:

- Be on time to class, every day. If you are tardy, a tardy referral will be written. Remember, you only get one freebie by the administration!
- I expect silence during afternoon announcements.
- As soon as you enter class, get out your class notebook and begin on the daily bell ringer.
- Most days we will take notes. We do not have a textbook so it is crucial that notes are taken correctly AND they are kept in your notebook. You also need to make sure to get notes you missed during an absence. Remember, ALL tests are open-note.
- When doing independent work, students are expected to remain in their desks to complete the work. All independent work will be collected at one time (unless stated differently). If you finish earlier than others in the room, find something to occupy your time. This may include reading a book, catching up on notes or other missed assignments, completing work for another class, etc. This may not include talking and distracting others, playing games on an electronic device, or sleeping.
- Classes will end with an exit slip. These will also be completed independently and are to be taken seriously as I will use these to formative assess your understanding.
- I will dismiss class, not the bell. Do NOT pack up your materials and get out of your seat. Absolutely do not attempt to line up at the door.

Other Important Behavior Expectations:

- Group work will be common in this course. I will start out by allowing you to choose the group you desire, however, if this becomes a problem, I will start creating groups. The same goes for a seating chart.
- You will always use the blue clipboard hall pass located in the front of the room when you need to leave the room. Unless it is an emergency, do NOT ask to use the restroom in the middle of notes or during the first and last 10 minutes of class. Appropriate time to ask would be during independent work time. There will be no limit on hall pass use until you make it a problem.
- There may be times that I ask you to get out your electronic device (yes, I said it!) to do an activity for me or to help with research. The key word in that phrase is that I will ASK you. It is never acceptable to use your phone or other device during class time without permission. If a device is seen out without permission, I will follow school policy and confiscate that device.
- Food and drinks are acceptable until it becomes a problem. If ANY trash is left on the floor or a drink is spilled the privilege will be revoked.
- If there is ever a substitute for me, I expect behavior to be even better than how you behave for me. I take this very seriously!!
- Lastly, Respect my property and my classroom. Do NOT write on the desks or walls. Do NOT leave your trash on the floor. Do NOT destroy any property in my room (including books, posters, etc). **Do NOT sit at my desk or take anything from my desk.**

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating in any form will NOT be tolerated in this class. If you cheat, you will not learn the material. So do not do it. If found cheating or cheating can be proven, students will receive a permanent zero for the assignment. No expectations.

In conclusion, I want this class to be fun and enjoyable for the students, but also informative. I hope this class will introduce you to another Social Studies field and help you become an expert on the criminal justice system. If you EVER have a question, concern, or problem do not hesitate to approach me. I am here to help you!

Let's have a great trimester!

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Signature Sheet for Criminal Law & Justice  
Trimester 1 2014-2015

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

By signing, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agreed to follow the above Syllabus for the duration of the course.

\_\_\_\_\_ (student signature)

Parent/Guardian:

Please read through the syllabus. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and accept the above Syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian signature)

What is the best way to contact you? Please indicate your preference below.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_