



Deer Valley Unified School District

Casey Potter

C221

Law in Society- casey.potter@dvusd.org

Course Description:

Law in Society is an elective course through the Social Studies department that introduces students to the American Legal System. Through various types of activities, students will learn how the law affects their daily lives. During the semester, students will explore topics such as Criminal, Civil, Consumer Law, Criminology, and the various types of crimes/punishments involved in the Criminal Justice System. Students will work together to increase their analytical skills, as well as their ability to formulate professional debates within classroom discussions. As this is an elective class focusing on various serious and advanced-learning topics, students are expected to be professional during each lesson. Please keep in mind, in order to be successful in our class, you must take responsibility for your own learning throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

1. To provide a practical understanding of law and the legal system that will be of use to students in their everyday lives.
2. To improve understanding of the fundamental principles and values underlying our Constitution, laws, and legal system.
3. To promote awareness of current issues and controversies relating to law and the legal system.
4. To encourage effective citizen participation in our legal system.
5. To bring about a greater sense of justice, tolerance, and fairness.
6. To improve basic skills including critical thinking and reasoning, communication, observation, and problem solving.
7. To improve understanding of the roles that the law, lawyers, law enforcement officers and the legal system play in our society.

Units of Study:

- Unit 1- What is the study of criminology
- Unit 2- The Nature and Extent of Crime
- Unit 3- Classification of crimes and roles within CRJ
- Unit 4- Corrections and punishment
- Unit 5- Investigation
- Unit 6- CRJ in the new millennium

Classroom Rules (Virtual & On-Campus):

1. **Be respectful** - Treat everyone with consideration in language and actions. Only speak when nobody else is speaking. Keep your table and the classroom neat and clean. Respect our time together and do your personal business on your personal time (this includes phone usage and bathroom). Keep food and drinks outside the classroom/Zoom.
2. **Be responsible** - Arrive at class on time and with all necessary materials. Start work without prompting. Complete assignments on time, ask questions for clarity, and stay aware of deadlines. Do your homework. Eliminate electronic distractions without being told to do so.
3. **Be involved** - You are in charge of your own learning and engagement! Be an active participant so that your learning experience is meaningful and memorable. Be active in discussions; ask questions, answer questions. Stay on task. Take notes. Use class time efficiently.

Grading:

Coursework: 20%

Assessment: 80%

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%, B = 80% - 89%, C = 70% - 79%, D = 60% - 69%, F = Below 60%

Absences and Late Work Policy:

Students must complete their work within the unit period for full credit. Since this is a study skills based class, “units” will be counted by week. Therefore, students will be turning in their weekly reviews once a week. Long-term absences can be discussed with the teacher before the approaching deadline for a possible extension. The educator will discuss the process for long-term assignments when assigned.

Summative Assessments: Teachers will provide one test correction opportunity on unit-based assessments to earn a better grade, up to full credit. Students must demonstrate that they have completed each assignment within the unit, scoring at least a 70%, before test corrections. *If a student did not score a 70% on an assignment, they may redo it to qualify for test corrections, but it will not change the original score.* Any plagiarism and/or cheating during an exam will result in an automatic zero; the student may discuss with the teacher how to retake the exam/test corrections, as long as it is within one week of the provided deadline. Cheating during futures exam will result in a referral submission to administration.

Integrity and Character Counts:

Integrity can be defined as: “How you act when no one is looking” Any incidence of cheating will be handled in accordance with the MRHS Handbook on the Mountain Ridge app. Students who choose to cheat and or plagiarize will receive **no credit** for that work, nor will they be granted a second chance at that work, and may face further consequences as outlined on the Mountain Ridge app. Students whom choose to use non permitted resources during exams will not be allowed to retest.

If a student exhibits questionable or inappropriate behavior at any time during class, these procedures will be followed:

- Offense 1: Discuss with student
- Offense 2: Discuss with student and inform parent
- Offense 3: Discuss with the parent AND student will not be permitted into the next class period on Zoom
 - AND inform that next offense will result in referral to administration
- Offense 4: Discuss with parent again and prohibit student from attending Zoom from class period
 - AND inform parent of referral to administration

**Egregious offenses may result in immediate removal and referral*

***Students are expected to uphold the expectations of DVUSD regarding behavioral policies and expectations.**

- Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent, including teachers and classmates.

The use of phones is NOT permitted during class. Please inform Mrs. Potter if there is an emergency situation before the beginning of class.

Recommended Supplies for this Course:

1. Your school issued iPad
2. Power cord and charging block
3. A stylus for writing on your iPad
4. Paper, pens, highlighters, and coloring utensils
5. One notebook per semester

Academic Assistance/Office Hours:

In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. These office hours will be posted in the classroom and/or announced on Canvas. I will demonstrate to the students how to find my availability each week.

Report Cards:

In an effort to conserve resources and utilize the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student’s report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

Power School Online Access:

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your PowerSchool access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Contacting Mrs. Potter

Please feel free to contact me via email at any time during the weekday. Emails sent during the weekend will be addressed that following Monday after class. I do NOT check emails after 2:30pm or during weekends.

Law in Syllabus Agreement

I, _____, understand that by signing this form I am agreeing to the terms and behavioral expectations listed in provided syllabus from Ms. Potter. I am aware that the syllabus is listed on her website, and that hardcopies are available in her classroom if needed.

Printed Name (student): _____ Date: _____

Signature (student): _____ Date: _____

Printed Name (parent/guardian): _____ Date: _____

Signature (parent/guardian): _____ Date: _____