

## **Course Description**

**Course Name:** Criminal and Civil Law

**Course Number:** SOC 4170

### **Brief Course Overview**

This course will explore criminal and civil law throughout the year on a state and federal level. It will address the elements of various crimes, basic criminal and civil liability and the degree of punishment and damages awarded to the defendants. Cases will be analyzed from different perspectives in order to challenge students to think as a prosecutor and a defense attorney. Students will analyze real cases in criminal and civil law, and understand how precedent plays a role in the courts' decision making process. Listening skills, public speaking, analytical writing, professionalism and teamwork are an integral part of the course.

### **Main Topics of Study**

- Trimester 1
  - Criminal Law overview
  - Local, State & Federal Court
  - IRAC case analysis
  - Elements of various crimes
  - Punishments for various crimes
  - Defenses of the crime
- Trimester 2
  - Criminal case simulated trial
  - Civil law overview
  - Torts
  - Property
- Trimester 3
  - Civil law continued
  - Family law
  - Contracts
  - Simulated Trial

### **What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?**

Students will:

- Explain the roles of attorneys on both sides of criminal and civil law cases.
- List and chart the differences in civil and criminal law

- Describe and understand the elements of various crimes in a civil case
- Describe and understand the elements of various crimes in a criminal case
- Understand how to read, analyze and interpret various statutes
- Understand the trial process and be able to articulate, discuss and debate the policy of what the prosecutor must prove for a conviction
- Understand and be capable of using the different objections in a simulated trial
- Identify defenses that prove that a criminal act should be considered excusable or justifiable
- Demonstrate their learning in simulated trials
- Explain the punishments for each level in a criminal case

### **Course Resources**

**[Street Law: A Course in Practical Law](#)**

**Prerequisites:** At least one trimester of Pre-law and teacher recommendation

**Course Length:** Year Long

**Meets NBPS Graduation Requirement?** No

**Included in Bright Futures GPA calculation?** No

**Included in NBPS GPA?** Yes

**NCAA Core Class?** No

**State University Core Class?** No