



## *Court Systems*

**Instructor:** Olivia Stradtner

**E-Mail Address:** [olivia\\_stradtner@roundrockisd.org](mailto:olivia_stradtner@roundrockisd.org)

**Classroom Phone:** 512-704-1822

### Course Description

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

### Advanced Credit Opportunities

Not at this time

### Course Length

1 credit

### Course Requirements

**Major Assessments-** consist of tests, projects, essays, and presentations that are designed to evaluate understanding.

**Daily Grades-** consist of developmental assignments that check for understanding of a smaller set of learning objectives; examples include quizzes, writing prompts, warm ups, seminars, classroom activities, and journal check.

**Class Participation-** In order for all students to enjoy and learn from this course, student participation in classroom discussions, special projects, and group work, in addition to the individual assignments, is a necessity. Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory. You cannot participate if you are not in class. You are expected to attend for the full class period. The instructor has the right and responsibility to document excessive tardiness and absences in fairness to the students who are in class and on time to class each day.

**Schoology-** Throughout the year students will be required to use Schoology to complete assignments for both major and minor grades.

### Materials

**SUPPLIES:** Students are expected to bring their supplies to class daily. The supplies needed for this class are:

- Computer and charger
- Pencils or Pens
- Paper
- Headphones

---

## TECHNOLOGY

Students issued chromebooks

## EARBUDS/HEADPHONES

Should any student have challenges as it pertains to technology please alert Ms. Stradtner ASAP.

## Grading Policy

### **Workload Expectations:**

This course will require some work outside of class including prior preparation of various readings, independent research, projects etc. that the teacher feels will help prepare you for in-class or virtual material and activities. Completion of readings and homework assignments is critical for the student to understand material presented in class, and to be prepared for evaluations and projects.

**Evaluation Process:** Evaluation is a necessary part of the educational process. Class assignments monitor your process in specific areas and reinforce ideas using meaningful practice. Tests, Projects, and Practicals evaluate your ability to recall ideas and demonstrate mastery of the subject matter being tested. All assignments must be completed by their due dates.

Assessments and Major Projects,	50%
Daily Assignments, Participation, Homework	50%

**Late Work Policies:** Assignments are expected to be turned in at the designated time. In the event that an assignment is not turned in on-time, district/school guidelines will apply: If an assignment is 1 day late a maximum grade of a 90 will be given, if an assignment is more than 2 class days late the grade will be a 80, and if an assignment is 3 class days late the assignment will be a 70. Any assignments turned in later than 3 class days late will be graded at the discretion of the teacher after a discussion with the student. Students are required to complete a late work form (pinned in Schoology) when submitting late assignments.

**Redo:** If a student scores less than 70% on a major/minor assignment that is turned in on time, they may redo the assignment for up to 70% (or be given an alternate assignment at teacher discretion). The redo must be completed within 1 week of the student receiving their initial grade. (No redos for daily grades)

**Makeup Work Policy** \*\*\*Refer to your RRHS student handbook for the complete policy for makeup work\*\*\*

**Excused and Unexcused Absences:** See RRHS Handbook. The student shall be responsible for obtaining the assignments and for satisfactorily making up the work within the allotted time. The allotted time for absences is one day for every day you are absent. All previously assigned work needs to be turned in on the day you return to class. Any deviation from this schedule must be approved by the teacher in advance. Please make an effort to discuss known absences in advance of the absence date. If you are not in class, you miss a lot of critical information & any missed activities/labs must be made up during tutorials.

**Cell Phone Policy:** During the state's most recent legislative session, lawmakers passed and Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a bill that prohibits students from using personal devices during school hours.

[House Bill 1481](#) takes effect this school year and requires all Texas school districts to prohibit students from using "personal wireless communication devices," which the law defines as "any wireless electronic

---

communication device, other than a device provided to students by a school for instructional purposes, capable of transmitting and/or receiving data.”

Items that must now be put away on Round Rock ISD campuses from bell to bell:

- Personal cell phones
- Tablets
- Gaming devices
- Smart watches
- Bluetooth headphones or earbuds
- Fitness trackers that can send or receive messages
- Personal (non-district-issued) computers
- Two-way radios
- Pagers
- Any other device capable of digital communication.

What this means for Round Rock ISD:

- Devices must be stored out of sight and not in use during school hours
- Exceptions will be made for documented medical needs and special education accommodations.
- Students will receive a warning for a first infraction. Continued violations may result in the confiscation of the item.

The law is designed to support student learning, reduce distractions, and limit the potential for cyberbullying. To help students adjust, families are encouraged to speak with their students about this change and perhaps consider practicing being device-free at home.

**Academic Dishonesty**: per district policy, any student found to be academically dishonest (cheating) will receive a 0 for the assignment. The student may resubmit their work for a maximum grade of 60.

**RRISD Academic Dishonesty Policy**: A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be **subject to grade penalties** on assignments\* or tests **and disciplinary penalties** in accordance with the **Student Code of Conduct**. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

Additional information regarding the Academic Dishonesty Policy is included in the [RRHS Campus Grading Guidelines](#).

## Classroom Expectations and Rules

### CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

1. Come to class on time and with needed materials.
2. Take care of private matters before class starts (i.e. bathroom/water)
3. Be respectful of classmates as well as your teacher.
4. Be actively involved in class.
5. All policies in the Student Handbook will be followed.

---

### **Course & Classroom Expectations:**

**Assignments-** The student will be required to complete daily work as assigned. Daily work will include, but is not limited to, completion of notes, study guides, vocabulary terms and projects that coordinate with assignments. Reinforcement sheets and group activities may also be assigned during class.

**Class Participation-** In order for all students to enjoy and learn from this course, student participation in classroom discussions, special projects, and group work, in addition to the individual assignments, is a necessity. Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory. You cannot participate if you are not in class. You are expected to attend for the full class period. The teacher has the right and responsibility to document excessive tardiness and absences in fairness to the students who are in class and on time to class each day.

### **Disruptions:**

Disruptive behavior of any kind is not acceptable as it hampers the learning process and cheats other students out of class time they need to get instruction and complete assignments. The teacher will first warn the student. A detention, referral or call home may be warranted based on the disruption.

**Tardy Expectations:** See RRHS Handbook for updated tardy/attendance policies.

You will need to be on time to class. This means that you will be in your seat prepared to work when the tardy bell rings and the door to the classroom is closed. If you forget materials for class and need to leave to get them, you will be penalized one tardy. Tardies will be counted daily and multiple tardies can add together and count as an absence for all classes in regards to exam exemptions at the end of each semester. Once a student reaches 5 tardies, their parents will receive a phone call or email notification by the administration and the student will receive a detention. Tardies after this point will result in a referral.

### **Ms. Stradtner's Rules:**

1. Be prepared
2. Be respectful
3. Be cooperative
4. Be responsible

### **Substitute Teacher Procedures:**

When I am out and you have a substitute, in addition to the above class rules, the following rules apply:

1. Complete the assignment given
2. Do not enter the courtroom when there is a substitute for the class period
3. Turn in work at the END of the period

**There will be a zero tolerance policy towards misbehaving students! If your name is written down, you will receive a referral depending on infraction**

## **Consequences**

**Non-Academic Behavior:** Actions that impede the learning process such as: Tardiness, disrupting class, academic dishonesty etc.

**1st offense:** Teacher warning

**2nd offense:** Teacher warning and parents contact

---

**3rd offense:** Teacher detention and parent contact

**Note: If the behavior persists past a teacher detention the students will be given Saturday school, if the behavior still persists a referral will be submitted to the appropriate assistant principal.**

### **Outline of Class**

\*Professional Standards and Employability Skills will be taught/discussed before moving into course content

Unit 1: Criminal Justice Systems

Unit 2: Types and Purposes of Law

Unit 3: Bill of Rights

Unit 4: Impact of Public Opinion

Unit 5: Courtroom Roles and Responsibilities

Unit 6: Criminal Prosecution/ Defense

Unit 7: Arrest and Search/Seizure

Unit 8: Rules of Criminal Procedures

Unit 9: Sentencing

Unit 10: Appeals/ Post Conviction

---

## **Mature Content Warning:**

### **Mature Nature of Topics Covered:**

The Court Systems class will cover a multitude of current event topics and expose you to several controversial subjects. Some examples of what may be included:

- Crime scene analysis and proper evidence collection
- Replay of 9-1-1 calls
- Drug Abuse/Distribution
- Videos regarding certain types of crime/ court cases
- Criminal Cases may include charges of murder/sexual assault/arson/terrorism etc
- Case Documents that include exhibits in different types of cases: Civil and Criminal
- Discussions of different types of crime and their cause/effect
- Death Row and Executions

Not only will you learn about these topics, there will be guest speakers, hands-on experiences (such as participation in a Mock Trial). Graphic videos, pictures, demonstrations, and illustrations are included in the class so as to further the understanding of certain topics. It is important to note that to convict criminals; one must first understand the circumstances of criminals, the crimes they commit, and the tools that are used to commit them. This must be done at the crime scenes, in laboratories, jailhouses, and courts. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly.

I, the parent (or guardian), have reviewed the course syllabus with my daughter/son, and agree to support my student in being successful in this course.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_