

# Civil Law

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**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/a/ausd.net/mr-pasqua/civil-law>

**Course Description:** Civil Law is a semester-long social studies elective that serves as an introductory course to law and legal systems in the United States. Units will include: Introduction to Law, Torts, Contracts, Family Law and other pertinent topics) Like any introductory course, Civil Law is a survey course. This course will touch on broad and specific legal topics to give students a better understanding of law and how it affects you in real life. Critical thinking, analytical writing, listening and public speaking skills will be enhanced through a variety of activities and assignments.

**Course Materials:** Law for Business and Person Use by Adamson and Morrison (19e). Southwestern Cengage Learning (2012).

Supplemental Materials include (but are not limited to) the following:

Supreme Court cases

Articles relevant to Civil Law

Online legal videos

Documentaries

Mock Trial materials

**Course Content:** Civil Law will encompass these goals

Students will communicate a deepening understanding of civil legal issues orally and in writing  
Students will make connections between civil legal issues and their complexities to the function of society

Students will communicate civil law ideas through logical thinking and critical analysis of the legal facts of a case

Students will read outside of the text; Supreme Court cases, statutes, newspaper and journal articles

Students will develop speaking skills through class discussion, mock trials, moot courts, debates and persuasive speeches

Students will develop an understanding of the American legal system and laws

**Unit Assignments:** This class will use case studies, individual research, group discussion / debate, and mock trials throughout the course in order to reach academic targets. Dueling opinions and lively debate should be the norm in this course making the class fun, enriching and meaningful. Additionally, students will be required to participate in “mock trials”. They will prepare legal briefs, develop oral arguments and follow courtroom procedures.

Unit Assignments will include the following:

1. Law and Ethics
2. The Court System
3. Intentional Torts, Negligence and Strict Liability
4. Contract Law
5. Property Law
6. Family Law
7. Wills, Trusts, Estates
8. Civil Procedure

**Major Assessments:**

Short Essays  
Mock Trial Participation Evaluations  
Research Projects (MLA Format)  
Group Presentations

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and will consist of a variety of readings from both the textbook and outside readings as well.

**Additional background information:**

Students will acquire an understanding of the law by studying the practical and historical functions of law in society.

Students will explore the history and structure of the American Judicial System

Students will examine and analyze substantive areas of civil law

Students will examine the chronology of a civil lawsuit in detail

Students will analyze and evaluate the impacts of ethics on the legal system  
Students will examine controversial legal issues  
Students will analyze the impact of government regulations on businesses  
Students will examine the purposes of trusts wills and estates

**Supplemental Data:**

This course is open to all high school students of differing skill levels. The goal is to provide a meaningful experience and, at the same time, enhance critical thinking skills and analytical writing for those who enroll.

**Grading Scale**

This course uses a traditional grading scale (90-100, "A", 80-89, "B", 70-79, "C", 60-69, "D", below 60, "F")