

Introduction to Criminal Justice: 10-504-900 (3 credits)

Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

Welcome to Introduction to Criminal Justice at Cornell High School! Introduction to Criminal Justice is a semester-long Dual Credit course examining the criminal justice system and law enforcement agencies from both a historical and current perspective. Criminal Justice is an in-depth look at the history of the criminal justice system; the philosophy of law enforcement; civil and criminal law; local, state, and federal law enforcement; and career opportunities. Students are encouraged to take this class if they have an interest in working in law enforcement in the future. Students who take this class have the opportunity to receive college credit through CVTC and a jump start on a law enforcement career.

Course Objectives:

1. Determine modern police functions and policies from a historical perspective.
2. Differentiate between the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
3. Apply professional principles as a law enforcement officer.

Course Units:

- Unit 1: Evolution of Law Enforcement
- Unit 2: Contemporary Policing
- Unit 3: Challenges to the Profession

Course Organization:

All course notes are to be handwritten. Each unit will be taught using a variety of activities including student discussion, lectures, projects, and group activities. Quizzes and exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, matching, and short-answer questions. Always bring your notes to the class as you can use them on the quizzes. Most materials and assignments will be posted and turned in through Google Classroom. Updates and announcements may periodically be posted, so please make sure you check this frequently.

Make-Up Work (Communication is key):

Makeup work will be accepted using the following policy:

1. If you are unable to attend class you will be allowed that number of days per absence to turn in makeup work assigned during the time of your absence.
2. If you are absent from class because of some unforeseeable circumstance, you have the option of requesting special arrangements or new due dates. Please let me know as soon as possible.
3. School policy allows retakes on exams, but quizzes will not have retakes.

Late Homework:

If a student has an excused absence, they will be allowed the number of days per absence to turn in makeup work. This means that it is the student's responsibility to collect work, and after reviewing the material, seek the instructor's assistance within that period.

Technology Policy:

Chromebooks have been supplied by the school and are to stay in the cart located in the classroom unless otherwise directed. We will frequently use our Chromebooks for projects and assessments. Cell phones and smartwatches will NOT be allowed in class. The school cell phone policy will be followed when necessary.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Students are expected to do their own work and not share their work with other students. If you plagiarize, you automatically receive a zero (along with the person who let you copy). School policy on plagiarism will be followed when necessary.

Preparedness and Materials:

Every student is required to have a notebook and a folder or binder specifically for this class. Students will store the majority of their work in a folder or binder. You will be allowed to use your chapter notes on quizzes.

Course Grading:

The standard grading scale will be used. Rounding will not be applied except at the discretion of the teacher. What makes the difference between an 89.87% B+ and a 90.00% A-? A good work ethic, participation in class, a positive attitude, and a consistent demonstration of trying to better oneself will be considered when making a change in grade.

Attendance:

Attendance is a must and is factored into your class participation. Much of the material is provided through lectures and classroom discussions, as well as in-class assignments and/or projects. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to collect make-up work and complete it.

Course Video Notice:

I try to use as many G-rated videos as possible, but there are a few PG-rated videos that may accent the curriculum well. I also intend to show clips from various PBS and History Channel documentaries. With all the videos I show in class, I will cut out graphic violence, foul language, and/or any other unnecessary scenes.