

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 11/12 American Law Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course focuses on how the legal system operates in the United States. Content includes an introduction to law with a focus on Criminal Justice, Civil Law, and Constitutional Law. Students will gain an understanding of the United States legal system. In criminal justice, the student will trace how the legal system operates from the time a crime is committed to the completion of a criminal sentence. In civil law, the student will gain an understanding how citizens address conflict with other citizens. Finally in constitutional law, the student will learn how the Supreme Court has changed law through the Constitution over the years.

Learning Experiences:

- Students communicate and apply legal principals to real and fictional situations.
- Students evaluate and interpret United States and Massachusetts Law.
- Students independently read and evaluate variety of primary sources.
- Students debate a variety the Constitutional Topics.
- Students write a variety of essays in regards to criminal justice and constitutional principles.
- Student participate in a field trip to the Norfolk County House of Corrections

Content Outline:

The Legal System

- A. Introduction to Law
- B. Lawmaking
- C. Courts
- D. The Trial,

Criminal Justice

- A. Crime
- B. Pretrial Phase
- C. Trial Phase
- D. Corrections

Civil Law

- A. Intentional Torts
- B. Negligence
- C. Strict Liability Torts

Constitutional Law

- A. First Amendment Rights
- B. Due Process
- C. Privacy
- D. Discrimination

Resources Used:

Text and Workbook series: Street Law: A Course in Practical Law.

Online resources:

www.nytimes.com

www.boston.com

www.washingtonpost.com

As of March 21, 2012