



Court Systems & Practices

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Conference Period: 4th

Tutoring Opportunities: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Class Materials:

1. One 1 inch 3 ring binder
2. Notebook paper
3. One package of dividers
4. Some projects may require additional supplies; ex. poster board, and misc. art supplies.
5. Pen/Pencil and Highlighter
6. Device with access to internet (If not, hard copies will be available)

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#).

Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial through sentencing and appeals and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on trial advocacy and on practical courtroom procedures.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

obtain skills necessary to pursue a law school and a career in the court system

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor (Advanced courses 70% Major 30% Minor)
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students will have plenty of time to do any work in class however I will ask that they stay up to date with current events related to the lesson we are discussing. They may also do research and home for projects and assignments. Students will be given reviews for exams that may require studying outside of class.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for school policy regarding attendance, tardiness and makeup work. For any class missed, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the makeup assignment from the instructor/make up box located in the front of the classroom.

Tardy Policy: Students are expected to be on time to class daily. Students will be marked as tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. Students more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked absent per EMSISD policy.

Make Up Work: I will strictly follow the EMSISD grading policy for makeup work when a student is absent (excused). Students will have time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments.

Late Policy: I will strictly follow the EMSISD grading policy for late work. If work is turned in 1 school day late, the maximum score for this assignment is 85%. If work is turned in 2 school days late, the maximum score for this assignment is 70%. If work is turned in 3 school days late, the maximum score for this assignment is 60%. No late work will be accepted after 3 school business days, and a zero will be recorded in my grade book

Classroom Expectations:

The 5 B's:

- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Productive
- Be Polite
- Be Positive

Each student is expected to contribute to a positive classroom environment. Not everyone is knowledgeable of the same things, and we will support everyone's questions and responses. Not everyone will agree with each other, but all will respect the everyone's opinion and viewpoints. Respect also includes giving fellow students, teacher and guest speakers our undivided attention when they are in the spotlight. Students will come to class prepared every day and accept responsibility for their actions or lack of actions. Choosing not to contribute in this way will result in the following consequences: verbal warning, d-hall, call to parents and/or referral to the office. Students will receive a Professionalism grade once every 6 weeks that counts as a major grade. Students will lose 5 professionalism points for any unprofessional conduct that would result in a write up or termination in a workplace.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- U.S. Legal System
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Courtroom
- Pre-Trial, Trial, Adjudication, and Appellate Stages
- The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Case Law

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, 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 other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.