



Legal Studies is a UC college preparatory elective and expectations are high. We will read, interpret, discuss and sometimes simulate our understanding of legal concepts—consider this your “school to life” class. Please plan on reading/watching required materials and participating in group and class discussions. Much of our time will be spent analyzing precedents, cases and current events to apply laws presented. Like the professionals, we are “practicing law” and you must be prepared to do so every day.

Legal Studies

- MS. LOWELL
- 2018—2019
- klowell@petk12.org

PARTICIPATION, HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENT PUNCTUALITY

It is of utmost importance that you come to class every session. Missing class will cause you stress. I want you to feel confident and prepared at all times, this comes from being in class and discussing legal issues as they pertain to life inside and outside of school

- Work Ethic points can only be received if you are in ACTIVE attendance, they may not be made up; therefore it is necessary for you to limit absences
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes and assignments from a classmate or google classroom. Ask me only after you have gone to the other places first and you can always email
- If you have an excused absence you have one day to turn in the work
- All work must be presented in legible format; easy to read and professional in manner

General Policies and Expectations

- All PHS policies as outlined in the student handbook or by administration will be followed
- Golden Rule applies – treat each other with care and respect
- Treat computers with care and do not share your log in. Only Business department students have access to the computers
- Electronic devices are allowed during class time with teacher permission



- Street Law Text
- Binder or Notebook—must have place to keep papers!
- [Flash Cards](#)
- Pen, Pencil, Paper
- Optional Law Dictionary

Units of Study

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

Unit 1 Introduction to Law

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Criminal v. Civil Law
Lawmaking
Advocacy
Settling Disputes
Court System
Lawyers

Unit 2 Criminal Law and Juvenile Justice

Crime in America
Criminal Law
Crimes against the Person
Crimes against Property
Defenses
Investigations
Proceedings before Trial
Trial
Sentencing and Corrections
Juvenile Justice

Unit 3 Torts

A tort is not a dessert!
Intentional Torts
Negligence
Strict Liability

Unit 4 Consumer and Housing Law

Contracts
Warranties
Credit
Deceptive Sales
Get Smart!
Cars and Housing

Unit 5 Family Law

Definition of Family
Marriage
Single People
Parents and Children
Foster Care and Adoption
Separation, Divorce and Custody
Government Support for Families

Unit 6 Intro to Constitutional Law

Freedom of Speech
Freedom of the Press
Expression in Special Places
Freedom of Religion
Due Process
Right to Privacy
Discrimination



Grade Breakdown

- Work Ethic (10%)
- Home/Classwork (20%)
- Projects (20%)
- Tests (40%)
- Quizzes (10%)

Movies – choices will vary

A Few Good Men
The Client
Taking Chance
Remember the Titans
The Runaway Jury
The Hurricane
Philadelphia

TV and other possible videos

Maxed Out –
Credit and Debt in America
Definition of Family
Child Abuse
Queen of Shoplifting
Shock Trauma – Kids and Drinking
Catch a Predator
TV Criminal/Legal shows
Beyond Scared Straight
Ted Talks



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