
Criminal Justice

Mr. David Nach
Room C-210
Social Studies Office, C-229
Email: dnach@tuhsd.k12.az.us

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IMPORTANT: www.edmodo.com: Edmodo is an online service that allows teachers to communicate with students and post educational material for student review. The material that can be posted includes blogs, youtube videos, Powerpoint presentations, PDF files, and webquests. Edmodo takes Facebook-like tools that a new generation of students already knows how to use—and brings them to the K-12 classroom. For success in my class, www.edmodo.com is the most important website. All assignments and announcements will be posted there. During the first week of class, each student will be given a group code. This will allow students to view all of the material that I have posted for the class. After a student joins the group, a separate parent code is generated for that student. I will give parents the parent code for their child if a parent would contact me at my e-mail address: dnach@tuhsd.k12.az.us. Students should login to their Edmodo account on a daily basis.

Welcome to Criminal Justice. In this course, we will examine society's response to crime and the social science of criminology. Our primary focus will be placed on criminal justice in the United States, especially urban America, and how we balance the rights of individuals with the need to maintain public order. We will consider the development of the criminal justice system while framing crime in the context of our culture. Students will evaluate our current system and propose ways to shape the system to meet the needs of our society.

Through class discussions, research, readings, and various statistical analyses, we will explore some of the key traditional elements of the criminal justice system, including the courts, police, and corrections. We will attempt to answer tough questions, such as; Why is criminal justice carried out in the current manner? Are there better ways for Americans to prevent or respond to crime? How should we treat juvenile offenders?

This course is designed for students to evaluate social patterns and how an individual's background impacts the criminal justice process. While looking at the root causes of crime, we will challenge each other to develop strategies for our criminal justice system as the *face of America* is constantly changing.

All students will be participating in the Mountain Pointe Teen Court. We will hold weekly trials in the classroom for first offense misdemeanor cases. These are real cases with juveniles, their parents, and a Maricopa County juvenile probation officer. All proceedings are completely confidential.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be respectful of everyone. That includes me as the teacher, your fellow students, and yourselves. Everyone in this class has a right to his/her own opinions, as long as they are respectful of others.
2. Be prepared and ready to learn. Bring your necessary materials with you to class (notebook, etc.) We have a lot of information to cover, and you will be responsible for all forms of it. They are all fair game for tests and quizzes. Do not throw anything away!
3. Be responsible for your own success. The “real world” will hold you accountable for all of your choices, and I will in this class as well. I will treat you like the young adults that you are, but that requires you to work hard and be dedicated to your own success. The choices that you make in this class are your own and you will be responsible for the benefits or consequences.
4. No cell phones or other interruptions of the classroom. No ipods. This is your warning. You will immediately receive a sticker and a referral. This is a school policy over which I have no control. These negative choices will affect your participation grade.
5. No cheating or plagiarism! If you are caught cheating on a test you will receive a ZERO and be referred to the office. I will read your homework, and if it has been copied, both parties will receive a ZERO.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKEUP WORK

You are expected to be in class every meeting, on time and prepared. If you are not, it will affect your grade. You can and will be dropped after too many absences. If you have extenuating circumstances, please see me.

- Excused Absences: If you are absent on a due date, you must turn in the work the next class period. *For example, if you are absent on Monday, return to class Tuesday, the work is due on Wednesday (if the work was assigned on Monday). If the work was assigned the week before, for which you were present, and it was due on Monday, and you were absent on Monday, the work is due the next day that you are present.*
- All work is due at the beginning of the period. I will make an announcement, and if it is turned in after the announcement, you will receive reduced credit. If the work is turned in later in the period, it will be considered late, and will receive reduced credit.
- LATE CREDIT : Work may be turned in one day late for 75% credit. You may turn it in 2 days late for 50% credit. Any late work received after that will receive 25% credit
- Group Projects/Assignments: Each member of the group should protect him/herself. If another member is absent on the due date, you will still be expected to present. Do not let another person’s absence affect your grade.
- If you are absent, you alone are responsible for finding out what you missed. I cannot track all of you down to make sure you have the materials. You should not need to ask me about makeup work for absences as all assignments and expectations will be available on edmodo.com. Edmodo.com is updated several times each week and sometimes several times each day.
 - I will be available for 30 minutes both before and after school. I can usually be found in the Social Studies Office during those times, if not in my room.
 - Academic Lab will be the perfect time to ask questions about material and to discuss your progress or to makeup quizzes.
- Tests and quizzes: You will have adequate time for preparation for tests and quizzes. If you are absent on a test day, you must make up the test in a reasonable amount of time – by appointment (before or after school) or during academic lab.

FOOD/DRINK

1. There will be no food in the classroom or open drinks – with the exception of water. All other food and drink are to be left outside of the classroom. Only clear water is permitted inside. *Exceptions only with medical request through the school nurse

GRADING

Your grades will be based on the following percentages:

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

<60% F

*On occasion, participation grades will be awarded. I will give you advance notice when these are being awarded so that you can conform your behavior to earn these points. These points will be affected by negative decisions, talking while others are presenting, disciplinary situations, etc...

Semester grades: Each quarter is worth 40% and the final exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

EXTRA CREDIT

You will have chances to earn extra credit throughout the semester, to be determined by me. There will be an ongoing opportunity, however, throughout the semester. Every other week, you may turn in a current event analysis for extra credit. Please see the extra credit form for a more complete understanding of this assignment.

Please print, sign, and return the last page of this syllabus.

INFORMATION PAGE

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE, SIGN, AND RETURN FOR CREDIT
Please return (worth 25 points)

We have read the syllabus and understand and accept the responsibilities and consequences of the course outlines. Please fill in the below information:

Student name (please print your name)	
ID #	
Period	
Student Signature	
Parent/Guardian name (please print your name)	
Parent/Guardian Email addresses	
Parent/Guardian Signature	

Parents/Guardians: Please provide with me with any additional information that you would like me to know about your student. Thanks!