

Mr. Lusch
Course Outline and Objectives
Evidence and Special Issues in Criminal Justice

Evidence and Special Issues in Criminal Justice is an advanced course in Criminal Justice that focuses on the key fact finding issues that substantiate criminal or civil cases. The course will further go on to investigate current problems facing the Criminal Justice System that the students will approach from a problem solving perspective.

The purpose of Evidence and Special Issues in Criminal Justice is to learn the fundamental issues surround fact finding and investigations within the Criminal Justice field. The students will develop and expand their base of knowledge on Criminal Justice methods and laws through a series of exercises and activities using comparative and analytical research methods. Through the study of situations and anecdotes related to Criminal Justice, students further build their understanding of this discipline. This perspectives course will also touch on the main disciplines of Social Studies (geography, history, civics and economics) by applying the content topics in a relevant manner.

This course is designed to have an impact of developing the **DSTP** test-taking skills for students who are scheduled to take the Social Studies **DSTP** in May of this school year. College bound students, who do have an interest in pursuing a higher education career, should understand the gravity of the **DSTP**.

We will focus on the following skill sets:

- Writing in the content area
- Building and expanding the base of knowledge in Criminal Justice
- Identifying career opportunities and developing plans to pursue those careers
- Develop research and referencing techniques
- Developing solutions to significant criminal issues endangering society
- Projects and performance focus activities

The text materials we will use are:

Textbooks: Criminal Justice by James A. Fagan
Death's Acre: Inside the Body Farm by Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson
Selected curriculum focused handouts on the related topics

Topics for Evidence:

- 1) Types of Evidence
- 2) Witnesses: Expert Witnesses; Hearsay and Exceptions
- 3) Evidence Law: Famous cases and Constitutional Law
- 4) Process of the Collecting Evidence
- 5) Death's Acre

Topics for Special Issues:

- 1) Gang Violence
- 2) Celebrity Crimes and Trials
- 3) Philadelphia Murder Rate
- 4) The Internet and Criminal behavior
- 5) Immigration: The Law and Contraversies

Absences:

Excused absences afford you the opportunity to make up your work. You will have one additional day for each period of absence. **The responsibility is yours** to gather your missed assignments. **All Homework will be logged in the class website www.mrluschismean.com .**

Grades:

The quarterly grades will be determined by the following formula:

15% Quizzes 20% Tests 25% Special Reports /Projects

25% Journals 15% Homework

***** You will not pass this class unless you have handed in all Special Reports and Projects and maintained at least a 60% successful completion on daily Journal Questions.**

Scale: A: 100 – 93 B: 92 – 85 C: 84 – 77 D: 76 – 70 F: 69 or Below

Please contact me through the school for any questions or concerns so we can work collaboratively to help your child achieve his or her goals.

Mr. Frank Lusch

Website: www.mrluschismean.com

email: flusch@colonial.k12.de.us

08/08

(Please fill the bottom and return it with your child before Thursday, August 27th, 2009)

Student's Name _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ (Print) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone: _____ **8/09**

