Introduction to Criminal Justice

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**Escambia Career Readiness Center**

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**Course Description**

Introduction to Criminal Justice is designed to align with the curriculum required by many law enforcement academies. This course is intended for 9th-12th grade students who are interested in pursuing a career in the field of law enforcement and corrections. Students will gain an understanding to the variety of topics in the criminal justice field, including ethics and professionalism, civil and criminal laws, the court system, trail processes, juvenile justice, and correctional systems.

**Course Objectives**

* **Safety**: Learn and apply safety concepts.
* **Career Exploration**: Explore career opportunities and requirements in the field of law enforcement and corrections.
* **Workplace Skills**: Practice the skills needed to succeed in the workplace.
* **Leadership Development**: Develop leadership qualities and take advantage of the opportunities provided by Escambia Career Readiness Center.
* **Digital Literacy**: Learn and practice essential digital literacy skills.
* **Physical Fitness**: Work towards meeting and maintaining physical fitness standards for public safety.

**Prerequisite**

* Introduction to Public Safety

**Required Materials**

* $40/year or $20/semester fee for the Law and Public Safety class (due in the first week of class)
* Pen/Pencil
* Three-ring binder
* Paper
* Proper clothing and footwear for hands-on activities and physical training (PT)

**Anchor Assignments**

**Mathematics:**

* **Crime Statistics Analysis:** Students will learn to interpret and analyze crime statistics, understanding trends and patterns using basic statistical methods.
* **Budgeting and Resource Allocation:** Practical exercises will involve calculating budgets for law enforcement agencies, understanding resource allocation and financial planning.

**Language Arts:**

* **Legal Document Analysis:** Students will read and analyze legal documents, case studies, and court opinions, focusing on comprehension and critical evaluation of legal language.
* **Report Writing:** Assignments will include writing police reports, legal briefs, and essays, emphasizing clarity, accuracy, and proper use of legal terminology.

**Science:**

* **Forensic Science Basics:** Introduction to forensic science principles, including the role of DNA analysis, fingerprinting, and other scientific methods in criminal investigations.
* **Evidence Handling:** Understanding the scientific methods behind evidence collection, preservation, and analysis to ensure the integrity and reliability of forensic evidence.

**Grading Policy**

* Minor (40%): Daily activities and quizzes
* Major (60%): Unit tests and Simulator Labs

Grades will be determined based on the following scale:

* A: 90-100
* B: 80-89
* C: 70-79
* D: 60-69
* F: below 60

**Course Policies and Expectations**

* Students must be conscientious and complete ALL required work on time.
* Students are required to:
  + Take notes during lectures.
  + Participate in class discussions.
  + Watch tutorial videos.
  + Read assigned selections.
  + Respond appropriately to class materials.
* Assessments will be given in various formats, including written, verbal, performance-based, and problem-solving.

**Course Topics Covered**

Throughout the course, students will cover the following topics:

1. Summarize procedural rights guaranteed by the fourth, fifth, sixth, and eighth amendments to the United States Constitution.
2. Research, evaluate, and share information on ways that political, moral, and economic concerns impact the development and interpretation of laws.
3. Differentiate among the origins, purposes, and jurisdictions of local, state, and federal laws.
4. Discuss the connection between ethics and professionalism in the criminal justice system.
5. Describe Title VII, ADA, human diversity, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and sexual harassment as they relate to the criminal justice system.
6. Describe structures and purposes of courts in local, state and federal jurisdictions.
7. Obtain and share information about the stages of the trial process in both criminal and civil courts, indicating the purpose of each stage.
8. Obtain and share information about the roles of grand juries, juries, court officials, and other individuals involved in the trial process from indictment to verdict and sentencing.
9. Identify programs and agencies within the juvenile justice system.
10. Explain the structure and processes of the juvenile detention system, including arrest procedures, intake, pretrial diversion, and transfer to adult court.
11. Enumerate and explain reasons for separating juvenile justice from the adult legal system.
12. Identify law enforcement policies and procedures related to juvenile offenders.

*Example:* *The Youthful Offender Act (YOA), specific to Alabama*

1. Compare and contrast federal, state, and local correctional systems, including jurisdiction, sentencing, facilities, and populations.
2. Obtain and share information about the various types of community-based programs provided by correctional systems.
3. Obtain, evaluate, and share information about prison crowding and its connection to sentencing guidelines.
4. Examine and assess criminal justice diversion programs that are not controlled or operated by the Alabama Department of Corrections.

**Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO)**

The Law and Public Safety Program has a CTSO called SkillsUSA. This organization allows students to become part of a partnership between students, teachers, and industry, working together to ensure that America has a skilled workforce. Skills USA helps the student excel. We provide educational programs, events, and competitions that support career and technical education (CTE) in the nation’s classrooms.

**Absences/Excuses**

If a student is absent due to an illness, unable to participate in physical training, and/or absent due to their school having an activity such as sports, clubs, field trips, etc. the student will be required to bring a written excuse from their parent/guardian. It will be up to the student to get notes and the bell ringer activity from other students in the class. Failure to do so will result in a deduction in the student’s final grade.

**Credential Opportunities and Requirements**

During the semester or school year, students will have the opportunity to earn credentials in the following areas:

* APCO Public Safety Telecommunicator
* FAA 107 (Remote Pilot Certification)
* CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

**Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to take the final tests for these credentials, students must meet the following criteria:

1. **Maintain an 80% Average**: Students must achieve and maintain at least an 80% average in all coursework related to the credentials. This includes:
   * Vocabulary assignments
   * Chapter quizzes

If a student does not maintain this 80% average, they will not be permitted to take the final test for the credential. Please note that credential options and testing eligibility may change at any time based on guidance from the state department of education.