



# Reynolds High School

## Criminal Justice



*Building Relationships for Academic Success*

"Education is the key to preventing the cycle of violence and hatred that marred the 20<sup>th</sup> century from repeating itself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." **Elie Wiesel**

**Instructor Name:** Mr. May

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**Room Number:** 624

**Email Address:** rmay@rsd7.net

**Required Textbooks/Materials:** Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction. Author: Frank Schmalleger. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Course Description

This is a **year-long** course in which you can earn 1.0 elective credit towards graduation.

The course will cover the elements of the Criminal Justice System in the United States today. It will examine the historical elements of policing, defining crime, and what conduct or behavior does society deem appropriate. It will examine the hard issues facing our system today, abuse by police departments, the use of solitary confinement in the corrections system and what are some remedies for these issues. The examination of Terrorism and how it relates to our society and criminal justice system will also make a significant element of the course.

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### *Content advisory*

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When we discuss current or historical issues in class, I hope you will feel comfortable in expressing yourself and your views; everyone's opinion is valuable to our discussions. I encourage you to freely express your views, but in a way that is respectful of, and protects the dignity of, your peers; therefore, ***putdowns and insults, including those based characteristics such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. are unacceptable.***

You may be aware that on college campuses, some professors began noticing around 2013-2014 that many students were asking for protections from words, books, ideas, images and speakers, indicating that they would suffer medialized harm or damage if they were not given "***trigger warnings***" and "***safe spaces***" from material they might disagree with or find upsetting.

Studying Criminal Justice necessarily involves content that is potentially controversial and/or upsetting, we will examine aspects of our criminal justice system that our society generally sees as positive, along with much darker aspects.

The latter will involve language, images, and ideas that are offensive to most of us in 2020/2021; I will ask you to grapple with the darker parts of our past history in order to gain a fuller understanding of where we've been, develop insights into where we are today, and formulate ideas on how we can be a better society going forward.

So, I will not infantilize you by seeing you as so fragile, so at risk of being harming or damaged, as to need "protection", from words, books, ideas, imagery and speakers. We will all see and hear things we are disposed to disagree with, but intellectually, a properly conducted history class is going to be a place where your ideas may be challenged, refined, harmed and perhaps even destroyed, and that's as it should be.

### Course Requirements

There will be unit tests on the various topics covered as well, reflection on articles that are assigned. Therefore, participation or lack of will have a significant impact on the student's final grade. Class discussions take place on a regular basis.

### Grading Policy Description

In this class the grade consists of Tests, Classwork/Homework, Projects, and In-class Participation.

**Plagiarism:** You are required to do your own work. Plagiarized work will not be accepted.

### Letter Grade Description & Percentage Breakdown

Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Description
100-90	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
89-80	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
79-70	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
69-60	D	The student does not understand the course content and a minimum of course objectives are met.
59-0	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

**Late Work Policy:** Late work will be accepted with the understanding that ***you cannot receive the full credit for work that is turned in late, unless you have worked out some arrangement prior to the deadline of the work.***



## Course Schedule/Outline of Units

Dates	Topic
September	Part 1 Crime in America: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Criminal Justice</li> <li>• The Crime Picture</li> <li>• Criminal Law</li> </ul>
October	Part 2 The Policing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policing: Purpose and Organization</li> <li>• Legal Aspects</li> <li>• Issues and Challenges</li> <li>• Issues surrounding the movement to de-fund law enforcement and the impact on society.</li> </ul>
November	Unit 2: Wrap-up of the unit on Policing and intro into Adjudication. Unit 3: Adjudication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Courts</li> <li>• The Courtroom work group and Criminal Trial</li> <li>• Sentencing.</li> <li>• Intro to Mock Trials</li> </ul>
December	Unit 3: Wrap-up Adjudication.
January	Unit 3: The Criminal Case wrap-up/Semester Finals Mock Trials conducted
February	Unit 4: Corrections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation, Parole, and Community</li> <li>• Prisons and Jail</li> <li>• Prison Life</li> </ul>
March	Unit 4 Solitary Confinement/School to Prison Pipeline
April	Unit 5: Juvenile Justice System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvenile Justice throughout history</li> <li>• The Legal Environment</li> </ul>
May	Unit 6: Terrorism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Terrorism</li> <li>• Impact and solutions when dealing with terrorism</li> <li>• Mock Trial Material roll-out</li> </ul>
June	Course Wrap-up and Final Exam (MOCK TRIAL)

**Class Expectations** (i.e. POWER) The key aspect in class is respect for yourself and those around you. Be prepared for class, be on time, and be engaged in the class. (this is a key component) This course required you to think, reflect, and be able to communicate those aspects through speaking and writing

**Test Retakes:** Students can retake the test when necessary

**Late Work:** Will be accepted 10% deducted for each day late, up to 50% of total. All late work must be submitted before the next unit.

**Internet Resources:** If students miss class, they can find the day's class work posted on [Schoolology.com](https://www.schoolology.com). Also, grades will be update on a regular basis and these can be accessed through Synergy StudentVue and ParentVue.

**NOTE:** Parents/Guardians please be advised that some of the course topics are extremely descriptive. The issue of prison systems in general and the conditions and life of the incarcerated are explored. Part of this course also focuses on the School to Prison Pipeline and we will look at who is incarcerated and why.

Use of PBS Frontline are viewed in the class that leads to a deeper understanding of issues facing the Criminal Justice system today.

## **Criminal Justice**

**Syllabus 2024/2025**

**Mr. May**

