

**Legal Studies
Course Syllabus**

Lincoln High School
2016/2017

Instructor:
Mr. Almeida

Extra Help:
Available after school

Phone:
(401) 334-7500
ext. 1172

Email:
AlmeidaR@lincolnps.org

Lincoln High School's Core Values

Respect, Integrity, Safety, Engagement, Unity and Pride

Belief Statements

We believe:

- All students deserve a safe, nurturing and respectful environment in which to learn
- All students are empowered to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a global
- All students should graduate career and/or college ready through multiple pathways of
- Meaningful and varied assessments inform high quality instruction
- Positive peer and adult relationships foster student success
- Resiliency and perseverance in the face of obstacles are keys to student success

Academic Expectations *(The following expectations will be met through this course.)*

- **Students will be thoughtful communicators who read, write, listen and speak effectively in preparation for careers and/or post-secondary education**
- **Students will be creative and practical problem solvers**
- **Students will be responsible users of technology and media**
- **Students will demonstrate continuous effort towards proficiency in all requirements for graduation**

Social Expectations

- **Students will assume responsibility for their actions**
- **Students will demonstrate the ability to resolve conflicts responsibly**
- **Students will demonstrate respect and responsibility for the well-being and welfare of others within a diverse school community**

Civic Expectations

- **Students will contribute to the well-being of the wider community through service**
- **Students will recognize their importance as participating members of American society within a global context**

Course Objectives

The Legal Studies course is part of the Law Academy offered by Lincoln High School in conjunction with Roger Williams University. The Lincoln High School Law Academy prepares its students with an opportunity to access an industry that employs over 2.4 million people each year. The program is designed to introduce students to the Criminal Justice world by providing rigorous curriculum combined with real world experience through the use of guest speakers from the industry and relevant field trips.

Eleventh and twelfth grade students can receive 3 credit hours for the successful completion of the Legal Studies and Criminal Justice; these credits are fully transferable to other universities, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Recommendation from instructor
- Complete the course with a “B+” average or higher
- Complete a 10-page research paper
- Complete an interview with the board at Roger Williams University

This course will provide a history of law and the evolution of legal principles. Course content will focus on the basic principles of constitutional, tort, business, family, and employment law. The course will help students to apply these principles to their own lives and to understand the importance of ethics within our legal system. Students will also explore career pathways in government, public administration, law, public safety and security.

Students will receive many opportunities to fulfill their PBGR requirements throughout this class. The various tasks assigned in this class will meet many of the Lincoln High School mission statement indicators but ultimately it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all PBGR requirements are met.

Grading Policies

100 points -- Student Assessments

50 to 100 points – Quizzes/Projects

10 to 20 points -- Homework

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

- ☛ Formal assessments may take various formats: test, quiz, essay, project, etc.. Tests will always be announced but quizzes, on the other hand, may not always be announced. Tests are expected to be completed within the allotted class time (IEP or 504 Plan provisions excluded).
 - A) If you are absent the day of the review you are still required to take the test upon your return to school.
 - B) Because the essay portion carries the most weight on a test, a formal writing style is expected. That is, essay questions must be answered using a five paragraph format (thesis, three supporting arguments, conclusion).

PROJECTS

- In this class there will be projects and many mini-projects. Typically you can expect at least one or more mini-projects a unit. Some projects will be required to be completed in class while other projects will be completed outside of class.

HOMEWORK

- Homework will normally fall into the following grading categories:
 - ✓+ = 10
 - ✓ = 8
 - ✓- = 7
 - Ø = No credit given. Assignment must be resubmitted for credit.
 - A) Homework should be handed in on-time. Late homework will only receive partial credit. Homework handed in after two days of the original due date will receive no credit. If a student fails to turn in an assignment after two days s/he will receive a zero for the assignment and will not be allowed to make up the work.
 - B) Work must be completed either in pencil or black/blue ink. Homework in any other ink color will not be accepted.

Attendance and Class Participation

Be on time to class. Passing time has now been increased from four to five minutes to allow students more time in-between classes. Habitual lateness will result in teacher detention.

Barring sickness, you should be in class everyday. Because we will be moving quickly, you are not to miss class for any extra-curricular reasons, such as selling tickets, blood drives, etc. If you do miss class for a valid reason you should refer to the absence folder for any missed handouts or homework assignment. If the folder is empty do not assume that there was no homework. When in doubt please see me.

Students are expected to actively participate in classroom learning experience. Students participate by preparing for class by completing the homework, asking thoughtful and probing questions of the instructor, classmates, and themselves. The law is always open for interpretation therefore students need to think analytically in this course.

Student Materials

Bring your notebooks --which you use *only* for this class--and a writing utensil to class everyday. It is important that you bring your notebook to class everyday as you will be expected to take notes from the lectures and group discussions. In addition to your notebook, you need to bring a folder to class everyday. You will be receiving *many* handouts this year so sticking handouts in the back of your notebook or textbook will not do. It is recommended you use a loose-leaf three-ring binder for class notes (so you can add distributed readings directly to your notes) and spiral notebook for the reading notes.

Required Reading Materials

Reading assignments will come from a variety of places. Besides the textbook, readings such as case law, briefs, and articles will be distributed in class.

Textbooks should be brought to class everyday.

Class Schedule of Topics

Curriculum Units	Timeline*
Unit 1: Introduction to the Law	22 days
Unit 2: Introduction to the Federal & RI court systems	38 days
Unit 3: Individual Rights & Liberties	38 days
Unit 4: Tort Law	20 days
Unit 5: Business Law	20 days
Unit 6: Family Law	20 days
Unit 7: Employment Law	20 days

*This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted as the year proceeds.

Academic Dishonesty

There are serious consequences for cheating. Cheating is considered copying work from another student or another source and turning it in as your own. Remember there are consequences for both the copier and the person who allows a fellow student to copy their work. Zeros will be assigned to all students involved. Plagiarism is considered cheating. Receiving a zero on a major grade (essay, test, project, etc.) can have a devastating effect on your grade. Additionally, cheating can result in impeding one's membership into the National Honor Society or expulsion from the National Honor Society. If you do not understand an assignment or you are having trouble, come see me so I can help you.