**Curriculum**

**You and the Law**

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to be both academic and practical, introducing students to the purpose and theoretical principles of law, and many of its applied aspects. The course is designed to hone skills students have learned during high school: research, writing, critical thinking, and debate. Students will discuss the fundamental concepts of law and justice, analyze the profession of law and lawyers, and examine different legal systems, courts, and procedures in both the United States and England. Also, students will scrutinize various relevant legal topics in the areas of both Civil and Criminal Law. Understanding the law, why and how it works, and its precepts, helps students contribute to their own lives, to their community, and, ultimately, to their nation's development.

**Department Standards**

Expected Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of and interest in history, the social and behavioral sciences and related subjects.
2. Constructive participation in a democratic society.
3. Understanding of various societies throughout history.
4. Development of critical analysis skills.
5. Development of research skills.
6. Development of communication and presentation skills.

**Benchmarks**:

To understand the fundamental concepts of law and justice.

To comprehend different the different legal systems, courts, and procedures in the United States and England.

To scrutinize various relevant legal topics in the areas of both Civil Law and Criminal Law.

**Performance Indicators**

To grasp the various relationships between law, justice, society, democracy, liberty and morality

To assess how the development of the law has been influenced by morals, and, contra, how the development of morality has been influenced by law To discern whether law is open to moral criticism To ascertain if society is morally responsible for criminal conduct. To evaluate the differences between "good law" and "just law"

To become cognizant of the legal enforcement of morality, i.e., the fact that certain conduct being determined immoral by common standards is sufficient to justify making that conduct punishable by law

To be able to discuss whether it is morally permissible to enforce morality as such, and why immorality should be criminalized

To determine who may practice law

To distinguish if and when an attorney is necessary To learn the process/steps of how to find a good attorney, as well as the costs involved in hiring an attorney

To identify the most common attorney/client problems, including the issue of legal malpractice

To understand the basic classifications of law, the fundamental precepts of the American and English legal systems, and the essential procedural rules, including where and how to find the law

To explain what a court is, and how state and federal systems are organized

To become acquainted with how a case is begun, and learn what proceedings take place before a trial

To gain experience in how a trial is conducted

To analyze sample court decisions and be able to identify and differentiate important issues among these decisions

To describe what a crime is, and who the parties are to a crime

To become familiar with, and be able to debate, some of the more pervasive dilemmas in criminal law

To identify and comprehend various forms of moral culpability such as crimes against the person, against property, against public health, safety and welfare, and against public decency and morals

To know what one should do if arrested; e.g. the various rights of an accused

To be informed that controversies arising in connection with injury to one's person or property are determined in accordance with principles of tort law

To comprehend the various forms of damages and be able to compare and contrast the two main types of torts, intentional and negligence

To identify when civil liability is absolute, trace the history of products liability and other forms of strict liability, and answer a number of questions related to tort law

To be aware that family law has been enacted principally to protect and enhance marriage and the family

To be familiar with the legal consequences of marriage and understand the laws that govern parenthood, parental rights and liabilities, and the ever-important "best interests of the child"

To know how a marriage may be terminated, and a spouse's rights and duties on termination of marriage

To be able to trace the history of modern Western consumerism, beginning with the Industrial Revolution, and to examine how law relates to consumerism/economic transactions

To learn eight ways a person can legally acquires personal property

To ascertain: what they can do as a buyer or seller, what their remedies are if a sales contract is breached and what warranty protections they have as a consumer

To be informed of at least six things that can be done if they are snowed under by debts

To comprehend what insurance is, how insurance companies are organized, and whether buying insurance differs from gambling

To be able to distinguish what kinds of insurance are available

To be able to evaluate various types of insurance

To be able to determine what protections exist for each type of insurance, what is covered, and how a claim is made

To be apprised of the general nature of the residential rental business

To determine how one may rent a premises

To formulate an understanding as to what laws govern the landlord-tenant relationship

To be able to compare and contrast various rental forms/contracts

To identify the pros and cons to buying a home

To recognize how to find available homes and investigate what factors influence the selection of a particular house

To be able to assess how a lawyer can help a person who is buying a house

To discover the differences between the USA and England regarding the purchase of a house

To be able to differentiate between saving and hoarding, and between saving and investing

To be able to recognize what a corporation is and who runs a corporation

To comprehend the concept of mutual funds

To be able to evaluate several compulsory and voluntary plans for savers

To learn what commercial paper is, and the pros and cons relating to commercial paper

To know why the law requires that motor vehicles be registered

To comprehend the standards that the law prescribes for drivers

To become acquainted with potential financial responsibilities to others in driving a car, and comprehend why it is illegal to drive after drinking intoxicating liquor

To discuss suggestions what one should one do as a driver if involved in an automobile accident

To evaluate and answer questions concerning employment

To discover whether a person has a constitutional right to work for pay

To be cognizant whether some persons can be barred from gainful employment by law and what sort of discrimination may be barred bylaw

To comprehend what is meant by affirmative action in employment practices

To have knowledge as to whether or not a contract of employment must be in writing, and be aware of the basic rights and duties of an employee.

To understand who may legally start a business and be able to distinguish between the three major legal forms of business organizations,

To grasp the three major objectives of estate planning To be apprised of tax burdens that an estate planner trying to reduce or to avoid To comprehend what a will is and how it fits into an estate plan

To determine what types of wills are valid, and what happens to the estate of a person who dies without leaving a will

To learn whether probate can be avoided and what are the duties are of an executor

To discern the meaning and purpose of a trust is and how a trust fits into an estate plan

To find out what workers' compensation insurance is, what unemployment insurance is, and to become aware of the purposes of both conservatorships and guardianships

To discover: if a child has any legal rights after conception but before birth, what rights an adopted child has, whether or not a minor may keep any or all earnings, if a minor can obtain a birth control devise without the prior consent of parents or a judge, the rules that apply when minors want to get married, and whether or not a minor can get an abortion without parental consent

To know if minors are citizens of their country and when minority status ends

To determine: if the government must give every minor a free public education, how long one must go to school, whether students may be permanently expelled from public schools, and if parents can refuse to send their children to public schools

To find out: if the recitation of a prayer can be required by law in a public school, may elementary and secondary schools regulate the way pupils dress, may a teacher or school official administer corporal punishment to a pupil for misbehavior, may school authorities open and search a student's locker or dormitory room without permission and without a warrant, what if any laws bar discrimination in public education, must public colleges and universities desegregate, and may professional schools give preferential treatment to minorities in admission policies

To be aware whether minors can avoid their contracts and whether there are some contracts binding on minors whereas others are not

To become aware of the circumstances where minors may be found negligent, if minors are judgment-proof, and whether parents are liable for the torts of their

children

To ascertain when a juvenile may be tried in an adult court, and most important, what rights do minors have in juvenile court--whether they are entitled to due process of law

**Assessments**

Regular preparation and participation in class discussion

Class preparation and participation

Practice and Procedure:

1. To discover what the International Court of Justice is and how it works.

2. We Try a Case:

Rather than a research paper, students will work outside of class during the semester preparing a mock trial, using a case currently pending before the International Court of Justice. Four students will act as advocates, with the rest of the class taking the role of judges. The students will research the case using, among things, materials filed with the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Advocates will prepare students from outside the class as witnesses, and present evidence to the judges at a trial held during the final three weeks of the course. The advocates will give opening speeches, present direct evidence, provide rebuttal evidence, answer judges questions, and give closing arguments. The judges will assist the advocates in cross-examining witnesses, analyzing the evidence individually and collectively, asking questions of the advocates, deliberating to a verdict, and writing judgments, either concurring or dissenting opinions, using a proper format. Members of the school community are welcome to observe.

**Core Topics**

Quarter 1, 3.

A. What is law

1. Law and Justice

2. Law and Society

3. Law and Liberty

4. Law and Morality

B. You and Your attorney

1. About the Legal Profession

2. Dealing with an attorney

C. You, Law, and the Courts

1. Classification and Location re: The Law

2. The Courts

3. Trial Proceedings.

D. You as a Victim or an Accused of a Crime

1. What is a crime

2. If a Victim of a Crime what must be understood

3. If an Accused what must be understood

E. You as a Victim or an Accused of a Tort

F. You as a Family Member

G. You as a Consumer (contracts and sales)

H. You as an Insured (insurance law)

Quarter 2, 4.

I. You as a Renter

J. You as a Homeowner

K. You as a Saver and Investor

L. You as an Owner or Driver of a Motor Vehicle

M. You as an Employee, or Employer in your own business

N. You as an Estate Planner

1. Concerning Wills

2. Concerning Trusts

3. Other aspects of Estate Planning

O. You as a Minor

1. Family and Civil Status

2. Education

3. Contracts

4. Torts

5. Other

P. The International Court of Justice

1. Practice and Procedure

2. We Try a Case

**Specific Content**

Quarter 1,3.

Selected significant areas relevant to Law today.

Current controversial legal issues and legal topics relating to students/young adults.

General topics include, but are not limited to:

Constitutional Law

Statutory and Administrative Law

Case Law

Civil Litigation

Criminal Law and Procedure

Criminal Law and Specific Crimes

What to expect if called as a Juror

What to expect if called as a Witness

Topics related to Minors:

Life, Safety, Police and Courts, Education

Money, Leisure, Travel and Transport

Quarter 2, 4.

Selected significant areas relevant to Law today.

Current controversial legal issues and legal topics relating to students/young adults.

General topics include, but are not limited to:

Contracts

Torts

Domestic Relations

Landlord/Tenant Rights

Real Estate

Estates and Probate

Business Organizations

Bankruptcy

Employment

Insurance

Topics related to Minors:

Work and Training, Family, and home

**Resources**

Quarter 1, 3.

1. LAW 101 by Brien A. Roche

2. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS by Judge Tom Jacobs

3. TEENS TAKE IT TO COURT by Judge Tom Jacobs

4. YOUNG CITIZEN'S PASSPORT, 14TH EDITION by Hodder Education

Quarter 2, 4.

1. LAW 101 by Brien A. Roche

2. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS by Judge Tom Jacobs

3. TEENS TAKE IT TO COURT by Judge Tom Jacobs

4. YOUNG CITIZEN'S PASSPORT, 14TH EDITION by Hodder Education