

# Unit 2 - Criminal Law and Juvenile Justice

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **October**  
Length: **17 block classes**  
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

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In a society, individuals and groups develop systems to manage conflict and to create order.

Societies must balance the right and responsibility of the individual with that of the common good.

Understand the nature of law and the criminal process/

## Essential Questions

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- What are the historical and current trends pertaining to crime in America?
- What are the elements that define a crime?
- What are the rights of the accused?
- What is the burden of proof on prosecutors to convict an individual of a crime?
- What are common crimes against individuals and property?
- What is the cost of a crime in civil court?
- What resources are available to an accused person to defend themselves against criminal charges?
- What is the sequence of events in a criminal trial?
- What accommodations are made for juveniles accused of a crime?
- How does the juvenile justice system compare and contrast to the standard judicial system?

## Skills

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- Analyze and interpret crime statistics.
- Analyze the cause and effect of criminal acts.
- Describe the impact of drugs, gangs and guns on crime.
- NJ state recommendations for preventing and reacting to crime victimization.
- Analyze a criminal act.
- Analyze and compare the elements of crimes against persons and property in the state of NJ.
- Describe the various criminal defenses and apply them to criminal acts.
- Analyze constitutional issues involved in investigations, arrests, interrogation and search and seizure.
- Discuss the evolution and use of forensic science for criminal law.
- Describe the procedural process including, pre-trial, trial, correctional sentencing.
- Identify rights at a trial.

- Describe the varying types and purposes of sentencing options.
- Analyze issue and procedures related to juvenile justice

## Resources

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The Constitution of the United States

New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice website

Street Law: A Course in Practical Law.

Media news sources.

## Standards

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6.1.12.A.2.b Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.

6.1.12.A.3.g Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interestgroup politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.

6.1.12.B.3.a Assess the impact of Western settlement on the expansion of United States political boundaries.

6.1.12.D.2.b Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.

6.1.12.A.14.b Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies

6.1.12.D.14.d Evaluate the extent to which women, minorities, individuals with gender preferences, and individuals with dis

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b

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SOC.6.1.12.A.3.g

Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interest-group politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.

- SOC.6.1.12.B.3.a Assess the impact of Western settlement on the expansion of United States political boundaries.
- SOC.6.1.12.C.14.b Judge to what extent government should intervene at the local, state, and national levels on issues related to the economy.
- SOC.6.1.12.C.14.d Relate the changing manufacturing, service, science, and technology industries and educational opportunities to the economy and social dynamics in New Jersey.
- SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.