

# Course Overview

Content Area:  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Year**  
Length: **180**  
Status: **Published**

## Course Overview

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Aligned to Standards: 2014 NJSLS
Revision Date: 2023
In compliance with the NJ Student Learning Standards, climate change, career readiness, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), as well as other standards have been integrated within the NBCRSD curricula (NJ Administrative Code Title 6A: chapter 8; Title 18A: chapter 35).
Course Overview
Sequence- Unit Titles, Summaries, and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/36 year)

## **Unit 1: Introduction to the Criminal Justice and Civil Systems - Investigation to Appeal and Civil Processes - 4 weeks**

- This unit will provide students with a broad introduction of the criminal justice system. They will follow a case from the commission of the crime through investigation, arrest, plea, defense, trial, verdict and appeal. They will also be introduced to their basic constitutional rights in our criminal justice system. Students will then compare the civil system to the criminal system and learn the differences and similarities.

## **Unit 2: Protecting Rights and Preventing Crime - 4 weeks**

- This unit will explore safeguard in our system such as the grand jury process designed to protect citizens rights. Students will have the opportunity to present before a grand jury and evaluate evidence to determine probable cause. Students will then examine the types and severity of crime and analyze crime data to determine crime frequency and trends. Strategies to promote personal protection from these crimes will be shared. Students will investigate how law enforcement attempts to utilize this data to keep our communities safer. Students will examine and discuss controversial programs that were designed to increase public safety such as Megan's law to determine their efficacy and fairness.

## **Unit 3: How Laws, Courts, and Sentencing Protect Us - 6 weeks**

- This unit will explain the legislative process used to create criminal law. Students will understand how our criminal laws reflect societal values and political pressures. Students will understand what constitutes criminality and understand how intent, action, and causation work together. Students will learn of the various legal defenses that can be employed and will debate their necessity. Students will learn about how pleas, probations, and parole work. Students will also understand the structure, purpose and role of various actors in a criminal trial. Students will participate in a mock trial activity and will have the opportunity to serve as an attorney, witness, or juror. Students will examine the evolution of sentencing in the United States and will examine controversies in sentencing such as mandatory minimums, over-incarceration, and the death penalty.

## **Unit 4: People in the System: How Law Enforcement, Probation, Parole, Corrections and Gangs - 2 weeks**

- This unit will explore the lives of people working and living under the criminal justice system. Students will have the opportunity to explore potential careers and demonstrate techniques in law enforcement. Students will participate in simulations designed to give them a sense for what a career in law enforcement may be like. Depending on availability, students may have the opportunity to learn hands on from real professionals working in the field. Students will learn about the responsibilities of various law enforcement agencies and develop and understanding for the techniques they employ. (These may include traffic stop simulations, crime scene investigation simulations, K-9 demonstrations, and interviews with people in the field.). Students will also learn about the role of probation and parole in providing those convicted with second chances to re-enter society. Students will learn about prison structure and organization and understand what prison life might really be like. Students will evaluate rehabilitation and incentive programs. Lastly, students will examine how street and prison gangs pose special challenges to the law enforcement system.

### **[Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to NB's Assessment System)**

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

**[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)**

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans.