

## **PRACTICAL LAW 2009-2010 COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Course Description:**

Practical Law will explore those legal situations that we may encounter in the course of everyday life. Every purchase, lease, contract, marriage, divorce, crime or traffic violation places the citizen face-to-face with the law. This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of your legal rights and responsibilities, a knowledge of everyday legal problems, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and in some situations, resolve legal disputes. We will address general problems in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice; torts; and consumer, family, and individual rights law. The main goal of this course is to help you become a better and more active citizen in our community and wherever your travels make take you beyond the walls of Lake Shore Central.

### **Academic Goals:**

- Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:
  - provide a practical understanding of law and the legal system.
  - improve understanding of the fundamental principles and values underlying our Constitution, laws, and the legal system.
  - promote awareness of current issues and controversies relating to law and the legal system.
  - encourage effective citizen participation in our legal system.
  - bring about a greater sense of justice, tolerance, and fairness.
  - develop a willingness and an ability to resolve disputes through informal and, where necessary, formal mechanisms.
  - improve basic skills, including critical thinking and reasoning, communication, observation, and problem solving.
  - improve understanding of the roles that law, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and the legal system play in our society.
  - provide exposure to the many vocational opportunities that exist within the legal system.

### **Assessment and Evaluation:**

- In-Class / Projects / Case Studies - 70%
- Tests / Quizzes - 20%
- Homework – 10%
- Total – 100%
- You will usually have a Chapter Test at the conclusion of each Chapter.

### **Attendance: IMPORTANT!**

- Students are responsible for any and all assignments regardless of whether or not they were in school on the day assigned. **It is the student's responsibility to contact me to make-up assignments.**
- If you are late for class (unexcused) two times in a quarter, you will have to stay after-

Practical Law - Gerken  
Course Outline

school for detention.

- There may be a brief graded assignment at the beginning of every class. If you come in late, you will have to make it up after-school or on your own time.
- **Assignments will be turned in on time or will result in a zero.** If you are absent on the day an assignment is due. You must see me **before** our next class meeting to turn the assignment in. If you missed class work, you are to pick it up and submit before the next class meeting.

**Ethics Policy:**

- All students are encouraged to learn from each other and share ideas. This is not to be confused with copying from one another or sharing assignments. Work submitted under your own name must be **YOUR OWN** work. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of **0 (ZERO)** for the assignment and possibly the course!
- Cheating will not be permitted. Much of our work will be in small group settings. I expect and anticipate participation and the sharing of ideas in these cooperative learning situations. I do not expect one person to do all the work or that it simply becomes a social hour. Working together and learning how to deal with group dynamics is an important lesson in the business curriculum and the business/legal environment.

**Supplies:**

- All students must have a **3 Ring Binder** dedicated solely to Practical Law. We will be adding information to this notebook on a regular basis. It is imperative that you keep this notebook up-to-date.
- You must have your textbook and notebook with you every class meeting. Please do not ask to leave text in the classroom.
- Make sure you have something to write with each day.
- You must have your agenda with you to go anywhere. I may also ask you to write down certain information in your agendas. You must have a District Technology and Computer Usage Policy permission forms signed and secured in your agenda to log on to network. We will be doing Legal Research on the computers.

