

**THOMAS COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
INDIVIDUAL AND LAW  
CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY  
ETHICS AND THE LAW**

**MOCK TRIAL / DEBATE COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Received** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

**Name of Course:** Individual and the Law: (Mock Trial or Debate)  
**Teacher:** Brian Bellamy  
**E-mail:** bbellamy@tcjackets.net

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Mock Trial**

Mock Trial is a challenging activity that is designed to provide students with the ability to analyze, evaluate and resolve legal disputes. Through case studies, role plays, mock trials, moot court simulations and research, students will gain a practical understanding of law and the legal system and how it relates to their everyday lives. Students must be proficient in reading and writing, as well as possess a willingness to devote considerable time to research and study. Students will acquire the analytic skills and content necessary to examine legal disputes and develop informed interpretations and resolutions substantiated by evidence. This activity analyzes the foundations and functions of the American legal system and examines types of laws, the individual's relationship to the law and major court decisions.

The basic legal skills and knowledge learned in class are significantly enhanced and developed to maturity through providing students with optional opportunities for extra-curricular competition in mock trial, debate, oratorical, and interpretation events.

**Debate**

Debate is a challenging activity that is designed to provide students with the ability to analyze, evaluate and resolve legal and political disputes through argument, reason, evidence and oration. Through research and speech, students will gain a practical understanding of law, politics and the legal system, and how it relates to their everyday lives. Students must be proficient in reading and writing, as well as possess a willingness to devote considerable time to research and study. Students will acquire the analytic skills and content necessary to examine legal and political issues and develop informed interpretations and resolutions substantiated by evidence.

The basic skills learned in debate are significantly enhanced and developed to maturity through providing students with optional opportunities for co-curricular competition in debate and oratorical events. The mission of the program includes finding tournament opportunities that will both challenge students as well as provide a reasonable opportunity for success. To support the maturity of our Debate students, students in the class may qualify to compete in the tournaments sponsored by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association (GFCA), the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA), and the National Catholic Forensic League.

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**OBJECTIVES**

- Students will understand their role as citizens and respect the rights of others.
- Students will understand due process and the steps and process in both civil and criminal trials.
- Students will understand the roles of attorneys, judges, and juries in the American legal system.
- Students will understand the parties to a case in both civil and criminal trials.
- Students will understand how a courtroom operates during a legal proceeding.
- Students will understand laws that are applicable in a trial including the rules of evidence.
- Students will understand alternatives for resolving conflicts in a legal setting.
- Students will understand the jurisdiction of local, state, and federal courts.
- Students will understand legal precedent and the role of the appellate courts.
- Students will understand statutory law and the role of state and federal legislatures.
- Students will understand how laws are interpreted and enforced by the Georgia Appellate Courts and compare and contrast with the United States Supreme Court.
- Students will examine individual rights in the American legal system
- Students will gain in confidence speaking in support of statement or arguments.
- Students will practice the skills of effective oral presentation and remedy common errors in delivery through mock trial activities.
- Students will analyze fact scenarios and legal applications critically.
- Students will practice the principles of speech organization.
- Students will gain experience and practice in the skills of storytelling and oral interpretation of roles through Mock Trial and will learn to be more expressive both physically and vocally.
- Speakers will become familiar with parliamentary procedure and the nature of parliamentary debate.
- Speakers will practice and improve the skills of persuasive speaking.
- Speakers will practice the principles of speech organization and research methods.

**SPEAKING AND WRITING**

All students are required to participate in speaking assignments when called upon. Student speeches must demonstrate reasonable preparation, effort and progress in the judgement of the teacher to receive credit. All written assignments outside of class must be typed using a word processor and legible. Google Docs is highly recommended. Most written assignments will be submitted electronically and may be required in Adobe PDF format and in Google Classroom. For polished or readable writing assignments, always use an 11-12 point Arial, Times New Roman or substantially similar font. The teacher may require additional writing constraints on assignments outside of these, especially during class.

**CLASSROOM MATERIALS**

Each student must bring to class on a daily basis:

1. Black or blue pens, or pencils
2. Ruled paper (8 ½ x 11) or legal pads (8 ½ x 11) with pre-punched holes for insertion into a binder. Use of legal pads for this class is encouraged.
3. A binder or folder, which may be shared with other classes, with preparation of a specific section for retention of class material and notes.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Your grade for the course will be awarded based on the scale below.

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Tests, Quizzes, and Projects | 40% |
| 2. Daily work, Homework         | 40% |

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3. Benchmark

20%

**COMPETITION**

Students may be given the opportunity to compete in debate or mock trial. Students who are invited and choose to participate in competition may be offered separate tracks to help them prepare. The teacher will reserve the option of returning any student to the common course track in the discretion of the teacher.

**CREDIT RECOVERY WORK**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic make-up work within two (2) school days after an excused absence. THE TEACHER MAY NOT REMIND YOU. All assignments that are not electronically posted and accessible by the student remotely must be picked up before school between 7:45 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. Mr. Bellamy is on duty at the E-Hall door near the band room entrance. The student is responsible for requesting and completing make-up work within three (3) school days of the last excused absence. Assignments provided electronically and accessible via the internet are due on the due date unless extended in the sole discretion of the teacher based on a written excuse by a doctor or parent provided within the two day window following return to school. Failure to turn in work by the date due will likely result in "0" for academic work missed in the discretion of the teacher. In extenuating situations, the teacher may deduct from the student's score per day from the due date. In exigent circumstances, the teacher may make other arrangements. The teacher may assign extra credit work in his discretion based on student history, cooperation, and efforts.

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

The purposes of a parent-teacher conference are

1. To give parents and teachers a better understanding of the child's academic and social performances.
2. To promote close cooperation between the home and school in fostering the growth of the whole child,
3. To give a more accurate picture of the child's school growth as shown by achievement, and
4. To promote a better understanding of the objectives of the school.

Parent-Teacher conferences may be scheduled with the teacher during planning from 11:00am-12:00pm on Monday – Thursday by contacting the TCCHS administrator at (229) 225-5050. Other conference times may be scheduled by mutual agreement of the Parent and Teacher by emailing the teacher at [bellamy@tcjackets.net](mailto:bellamy@tcjackets.net).

**TECHNOLOGY**

All students will be required to use in-class computers, personal electronic devices, and out of school internet access to complete assignments. Students are responsible for complying with the school handbook policies for technology and Internet usage. The teacher will use <https://tcchs.org> and <https://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/olc/teacher.aspx?s=670> to communicate with parents and students about announcements, assignments, and important files/resources. A feed will be provided on these websites from each Google Classroom, the teacher blog, and Remind.

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**CLASSROOM RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, with the staff, is responsible for its orderly operation. In case of discipline violations, or illegal activities not covered by prescribed dispositions in the *Thomas County Central High School Student Handbook and/or Parent Handbook* (issued to every student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment), the Principal may enact corrective measures that he or she feels are in the best interest of the school and student(s) involved. The teacher is responsible for the orderly operation of the classroom. With that said, the following rules are highlighted.

1. Come to class on time. Standing outside the door and rushing in after the bell has begun to ring will constitute a **tardy**. Arriving to your seat after the bell has run will constitute a tardy.
2. **Begin any start up activity immediately.**
3. Attend to personal needs before coming to class.
4. Remain in your assigned seat unless you have permission to get up.
5. **Do not eat or drink in the classroom without teacher permission.**
6. **Bring your pen, pencil, paper, binder and other required materials every day.**
7. Talk only when permitted or constructive to the underlying activity.
8. Use polite speech and body language.
9. Follow the school's honor code.
10. Always follow the teacher's directions.
11. **Cell phones and other electronic devices** must be out of sight of the student and silenced during instructional time. Exceptions may be made for specific classroom projects and will be monitored accordingly for academic work only. Personal use is subject to express permission of the teacher requested before the device is used.
12. No student shall photograph, videotape, record or reproduce, via any audio or video means, another student or staff member while on school system premises without the expressed prior permission of the student or staff member.
13. The classroom computers are for academic work only. **Personal use of the computers is prohibited.**

The teacher will take the following corrective action if a student decides not to follow the above rules.

1. Teacher Warning, may include any of the following:
  - a. Taking up mobile or electronic device pursuant to school policy
  - b. Change of seating
  - c. Brief conference detention 7:45 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. the following morning of a regular school day.
2. Teacher & Student Conference:
  - a. Time is designated by the teacher or brief conference detention 7:45 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. the following morning of a regular school day.
  - b. Parent is notified of corrective action
3. Teacher Contacts Parent, may include any of the following: (occurrence 2-4)
  - a. Electronic communication/conference
  - b. Telephone call
  - c. Letter
4. Administrative referral (occurrence 5-7)

**PLEASE KEEP THIS SYLLABUS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK AT ALL TIMES.**

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STUDENT AND PARENT  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

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Teacher: Brian Bellamy  
Class Location: Room E14  
Telephone: (229) 225-5050 ext. 370  
E-mail: bbellamy@tcjackets.net

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**Your signature is required below to acknowledge receipt of a course syllabus for Individual and the Law: Mock Trial / Debate. Please return this page to your teacher after you and a parent or legal guardian have signed below and provided parent contact information.**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: Brian Bellamy Room Number: E14

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone | Mobile Phone | Email

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Returned \_\_\_\_\_