

**Criminal Investigation  
Course Syllabus  
High School for Law & Justice  
Ms. Johnson  
Credits: ½-1**

**Course Description:** The course provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for a career in law enforcement. This course includes how to properly search and collect for evidence, interview & interrogations, and other various methods of investigation.

**Course Outline**

1. Professional Standards and Communication Skills
  - a. Demonstrates professional standards/employability skills
  - b. Demonstrates on-time arrival, meeting deadlines
  - c. Ethical use of technology
2. Criminal Investigative Procedures
  - a. Explore criminal Investigative procedures
  - b. Examine preliminary investigations such as initial response
  - c. Research follow-up procedures for an investigation
3. Documenting Crime Scenes and writing reports
  - a. Explain the use of field notes
  - b. Demonstrate an understanding on how to take notes
  - c. Examine how to effectively take notes during an investigation
  - d. Distinguish between the advantages & disadvantages of photographs at a crime scene
4. Creating Crime Scene Sketches
  - a. Create a plan & make observation before sketching a crime scene
  - b. Summarize the crime scene by taking notes and recording details
  - c. Research and describe the final sketch

**GRADING/EVALUATION**

Exams	45%
Projects (Student Performance/Technology Applications)	30%
Projects (Student Engagement)	10%
Quizzes, Learning & Practice Assignments	15%
Total	100%

**SUPPLIES:**

No. 2 pencils, ink pen  
3 ring binder for notes and returned work

**Assignment Policy**

Assignments are to be turned in on time or the student will receive a reduced grade. If the student is absent from class, for any reason, they are responsible for contacting the teacher concerning missed or future assignments. **The teacher can be contacted by email at [samar.johnson@houstonisd.org](mailto:samar.johnson@houstonisd.org) or by phone at 713-867-5100.**

**Discipline Policy**

Students disrupting the teaching environment will either be given (1) a verbal warning, (2) a conference between the teacher, the student, and the parent, (3) or removed from the classroom, depending on the seriousness and frequency of the violation. This action will also result in a conference with the parent.

**STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK THEY DO OR FAIL TO DO**

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status or political affiliation in its education or employment programs and activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended