

Vocabulary – Chapter 16

misdemeanor	A minor crime, typically punishable by a fine or no more than one year in prison. Misdemeanors include petty theft, disturbing the peace, and most traffic violations.
felony	A serious crime that is usually punishable by more than one year in prison. Felonies include grand theft, armed assault, and murder.
grand jury	A group of citizens who examine the evidence in a serious criminal case to decide whether a person accused of a crime should be indicted, or charged.
indictment	A formal accusation of criminal behavior handed down by a grand jury. An indictment means that the accused person will be brought to trial.
arraignment	The stage in the criminal process when a person accused of a crime is informed of the charges and allowed to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.
plea bargain	An agreement in which a defendant pleads guilty in return for a lesser charge or reduced sentence.
restitution	A repayment by an offender to a victim for losses, damages, or injuries resulting from a crime.
incarceration	Imprisonment in a jail, prison, or other correctional
facility	as punishment for a crime.