

Syllabus

PLATO Course Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, Semester A

Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended as a practical, hands-on guide to help you understand the functioning of law enforcement agencies, courts, the correctional system, and security and emergency agencies. This course has 15 lessons organized into four units, plus four Unit Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

This course covers the history and development of criminal law in the United States, court procedures, the role of law enforcement agencies and private security in public safety, and the role of fire fighters and emergency responders. It also covers the ethical and legal responsibilities and working conditions in law enforcement and security.

You will submit the Unit Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work on the Lesson Activities by comparing them with the given sample responses. The Unit Activities (submitted to the teacher), and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson; the pre- and post-test questions that come at the beginning and end of the unit respectively; and an end-of-semester test. All of these tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology enhanced (TE) questions.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Examine the evolution of law and the criminal justice system in the United States.
- Analyze careers in law, law enforcement, corrections, and public safety, including the education, skills, and training required.
- Inspect the United States criminal justice system.

- Examine the multiple factors that work to ensure public safety.
- Analyze the use of technology and employ technology safely and ethically for a variety of purposes.
- Assess the intersection of Constitutional law and citizens' rights with law enforcement.
- Apply personal skills and strategies to reduce stress, work ethically and safely, and create positive interactions with others.

Prerequisite Skills

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Semester A has the following prerequisites:

- basic computer skills
- basic math knowledge
- ability to visualize and apply creativity and innovation
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines
- ability to structure and process information

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations on a computer.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of the general skills required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course teacher may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Course Components and Grading Rubric

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretest. <i>Pretests are optional assessments, typically designed for credit recovery use. If a student shows mastery of a lesson's objective, the student may be automatically exempted from that lesson in the upcoming unit. Typically, teachers do not choose to employ exemptive pretests for first-time credit courses. Pretests are not included as a component of the student's final grade.</i>	4	0%
Module. <i>Each module in this course contains an interactive tutorial and an associated mastery test. Tutorials may include one or more Lesson Activities that constitute tasks associated with the tutorial. The module score comes from a student's score on the mastery test.</i>	15	20%
Discussion. <i>Online discussions allow for higher-order thinking about terminal objectives. An online threaded discussion mirrors the educational experience of a classroom discussion. Teachers can initiate a discussion by asking a complex, open-ended question. Students can engage in the discussion by responding both to the question and to the thoughts of others. Each unit in a course has one predefined discussion topic; teachers may add more discussion topics.</i>	4	20%
Unit Activity. <i>Unit Activities are at the end a unit and constitute one or more small tasks. Their purpose is to deepen understanding of key unit concepts and tie them together. Each Unit Activity includes a simple rubric. The teacher versions include both a rubric and modeled sample answers. Unit Activities are teacher graded.</i>	4	20%
Posttest. <i>The posttest appears at the end of the unit and mirrors the pretest in structure, content, and complexity.</i>	4	20%
End of Semester Test. <i>The end of semester test (EOS) appears at the end of the course. Students are delivered a few items from every tutorial in the course in order to assess the major course objectives.</i>	1	20%
Total	32	100%

*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

Unit 1: Law in the United States

Summary

In this unit, you'll describe the history, origins, and sources of law in the United States. You'll describe the history and development of criminal law in the United States. You'll identify the roles and functions of court systems. You'll also describe pretrial procedures in criminal courts. Finally, you'll explain the trial process in a criminal proceeding.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
1 day 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
4 days 2-5	History of Law <i>Recall the history, origins, and sources of law in the United States; identify career specializations in the field of law.</i>	Lesson
4 days 6-91	Criminal Law <i>Recall the history and development of criminal law in the United States; recognize what constitutes a crime.</i>	Lesson
4 days 10-13	Court Systems <i>Identify the roles and functions of the court systems, judges, and what constitutes civil and criminal cases; recall various court cases.</i>	Lesson
4 days 14-17	Pretrial Process <i>Describe pretrial procedures in criminal courts, the jury system, and plea bargaining.</i>	Lesson
4 days 18-21	Trial Process <i>Explain the trial process in a criminal proceeding and recognize the pros and cons of plea bargaining.</i>	Lesson
1 day 22	Space Jumble	Game
4 days 23-26	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1 <i>Describe the role and responsibilities of a courtroom participant of your choice.</i>	Unit Activity
Extended Project	Course Activity: Terminology in Legal Careers <i>There are many career choices available in the field of law enforcement. In this activity, you will identify and explain terms associated with these careers.</i>	Course Activity
1 day 27	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Law Enforcement and Corrections

Summary

In this unit, you'll describe the role of public law enforcement agencies in public safety. You'll describe the roles and responsibilities of the police in ensuring public safety. You'll also identify the roles and functions of the correctional system, parole, and probation. Finally, you'll identify the differences between jails and prisons.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 28–31	Public Law Enforcement <i>Recall the history and describe the role of public law enforcement agencies; identify education and requirements for various careers in the field.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 32–35	The Police <i>Recall the evolution of policing and describe the roles and responsibilities of the police in ensuring public safety; identify careers in law enforcement and criminal investigations.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 36–39	The Correctional System <i>Identify and describe the parts and functions of the correctional system, parole, and probation; identify careers and skills needed for a careers in the correctional services field.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 40–43	Jails and Prisons <i>Identify the differences between jails and prison, issues they face, and the ethics of punishment types; describe the evolution of a local prison.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 44	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 45–48	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2 <i>Relate the changing role of public law enforcement over the course of a particular century in this country.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 49	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Private Security and Emergency Services

Summary

In this unit, you'll identify the roles and functions of private security in public safety. You'll describe the roles and responsibilities of fire protection services. You'll also explain the importance of first responders in public safety.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 50–53	Private Security <i>Identify the role of private security in public safety and the services they provide; describe the pros and cons of private security collaborating with law enforcement.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 54–57	Fire Protection Services <i>Name and describe careers and their related skills, training, and responsibilities in the field of fire protection services.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 58–61	First Responders <i>Describe the evolution and explain the importance of first responders and federal emergency agencies in public safety; identify careers in the field.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 62	Thwack-a-Mole	Game
4 days: 63–66	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3 <i>Explain the role of first responders during such emergencies.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 67	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Rights, Ethics, and Safety

Summary

In this unit, you'll explain the legal and ethical responsibilities in law enforcement. You'll identify the impact of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution on law enforcement. You'll also describe maintaining safe and healthy working conditions in a law enforcement and security environment.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 68–72	Ethical and Legal Responsibilities <i>List and explain legal and ethical responsibilities in law enforcement.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 73–77	Constitutional Rights and Law Enforcement <i>Explain the impact of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution on law enforcement and relate what might need updating; discuss the violation of citizens' rights in multiple scenarios,</i>	Lesson
5 days: 78–82	Health and Safety <i>Identify job hazards and describe strategies to maintain safe and healthy working conditions in a law enforcement and security environment.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 83	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 4 <i>Constitutional amendments play a major role in law enforcement procedures, such as arrests and criminal trials. In this activity, you will explain the importance of these amendments with respect to law enforcement.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment

Course Map

You will achieve course level objectives by completing each lesson's instruction, assignments, and assessments. For a detailed look at how the materials meet these objectives, review the [course map for Semester A](#).