

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

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Learn about the history, origins, and sources of law in the United States.
- Learn the roles and functions of court systems and procedures in criminal courts.
- Learn about the trial process in criminal proceedings.
- Explore the role and responsibilities of public law enforcement agencies, fire protection services, first responder services, and private security in public safety.
- Identify the roles and functions of the correctional system, parole, and probation.
- Identify the differences between jails and prisons.
- Learn the legal and ethical responsibilities of professionals in law enforcement and the impact of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution on law enforcement.
- Examine safe and healthy working conditions in a law enforcement and security environment.

Prerequisite Skills

PLATO Course 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

PLATO Course 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 instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Law in the United States

Summary

In this unit, you'll familiarize yourself with the source and origins of law in the United States. You'll learn about the different types of law and the process of law enactment. You'll learn to distinguish between different types of crime and the difficulties that law enforcement officers face when enforcing laws. You'll also learn about the structure and functioning of civil and criminal courts. You'll explore career opportunities in civil and criminal courts. In addition, you'll learn about pretrial procedures, such as arraignments, bails, preliminary hearings, pleas, and plea bargaining. Finally, you'll learn about the components of a trial process in a criminal court, such as cross-examinations, rebuttals, and closing arguments.

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>Describe the history, origins, and sources of law in the United States.</i>	Lesson
4 days 6-91	Criminal Law <i>Describe the history and development of criminal law in the United States.</i>	Lesson
4 days 10-13	Court Systems <i>Identify the roles and functions of court systems.</i>	Lesson
4 days 14-17	Pretrial Process <i>Describe pretrial procedures in criminal courts.</i>	Lesson
4 days 18-21	Trial Process <i>Explain the trial process in a criminal proceeding.</i>	Lesson
1 day 22	Space Jumble	Game
4 days 23-26	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity
Extended Project	Glossary	Course Activity

<p>1 day 27</p>	<p>Post-test—Unit 1</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
---------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

Unit 2: Law Enforcement and Corrections

Summary

In this unit, you'll learn about the role of public law enforcement agencies and correctional officers in public safety. You'll explore career opportunities in law enforcement and the correctional system. You'll examine the education, skills, training requirements, duties, and responsibilities for professionals in these fields. You'll also learn how different law enforcement agencies coordinate to work effectively. Finally, you'll trace the history of jails and prisons in the United States.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 28–31	Public Law Enforcement <i>Describe the role of public law enforcement agencies in public safety.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 32–35	The Police <i>Describe the roles and responsibilities of the police in ensuring public safety.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 36–39	The Correctional System <i>Identify the roles and functions of the correctional system, parole, and probation.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 40–43	Jails and Prisons <i>Identify the differences between jails and prisons.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 44	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 45–48	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity
1 day: 49	Post-test—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Private Security and Emergency Services

Summary

In this unit, you'll familiarize yourself with the history of private security in the United States. You'll explore career opportunities in private security, fire protection services, and emergency services. You'll also examine the qualifications, skills, and training that you need to make a career in these fields. Finally, you'll learn about certain systems used in emergency services, such as 911 and computer-aided emergency relief dispatch systems.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 50–53	Private Security <i>Examine the roles and functions of private security in public safety.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 54–57	Fire Protection Services <i>Describe the roles and responsibilities of fire protection services.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 58–61	First Responders <i>Discuss the importance of first responders in public safety.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 62	Thwack-a-Mole	Game
4 days: 63–66	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity
1 day: 67	Post-test—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Rights, Ethics, and Safety

Summary

In this unit, you'll examine the various laws, regulations, and policies that govern law enforcement and security professionals. You'll also learn about common ethical dilemmas these professionals face and how they can best respond when they are in unethical or illegal situations. You'll also familiarize yourself with the Bill of Rights and some aspects of the Constitution that affect the way officers enforce the law. You'll learn about the dangers that law enforcement officers often face. In addition, you'll learn how law enforcement professionals can combat stress through using certain strategies and by paying attention to health and fitness. Finally, you'll learn about first aid, CPR, and methods that law enforcement and emergency service professionals use to safely handle hazardous materials.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 68–72	Ethical and Legal Responsibilities <i>Explain the 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.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 78–82	Health and Safety <i>Discuss maintaining 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	Unit Activity
1 day: 88	Post-test—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment