

Law & Order

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Law & Order: Introduction to Legal Studies

Every society has laws that its citizens must follow. From traffic laws to regulations on how the government operates, laws help provide society with order and structure. Our lives are guided and regulated by our society's legal expectations. Consumer laws help protect us from faulty goods; criminal laws help to protect society from individuals who harm others; and family law handles the arrangements and issues that arise in areas like divorce and child custody. This course focuses on the creation and application of laws in various areas of society. By understanding the workings of our court system, as well as how laws are actually carried out, we become more informed and responsible citizens in our communities and of our nation.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

- This is an inquiry-based course. Students will generate knowledge through online readings, synchronous chats, asynchronous discussions with students and their instructor, interactions with online tutorials, and online and hands-on simulations.
- A semester project developed by each student will be used to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the material in the course.
- The instructor will act as a guide, a facilitator, an events planner, and a resource advisor. He/she will always be available through e-mail.
- The student must actively construct and acquire knowledge by being intrinsically motivated to succeed. To succeed, students must participate and complete all readings and activities. This course requires the student's active participation.
- Both formal and informal assessment methods will be used in the course. Informal assessment will include an evaluation of the quality and timeliness of participation in class activities. Formal assessment may include multiple-choice quizzes, tests, discussion board participation, and written assignments. A final exam will be given at the end of the course.

COURSE PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES

This course for which you are registered is a college preparatory, academically rigorous course that covers an entire semester's worth of material. As such, it is important that you adhere to the following guidelines as you manage your time and commit to successfully completing all required coursework:

1. The requirements for this course are equivalent to completion of minimum of 90+ hours of class instruction at a traditional on-site high school
2. Assignments must be submitted for each unit as they are completed so that the teacher may review and assess your performance. Do not hold your work, you must submit each unit's homework as it is completed, demonstrating weekly assignment completions
3. You must log in regularly to your course to demonstrate continued participation, and completion of all course requirements, including assignments, assessments and discussion forums
4. You must complete your individual work and any incident of suspected cheating, plagiarism or collaboration on assignments violates the academic integrity expectations outlined at the time of your enrollment and can result in failure of the course or further action as deemed appropriate

Citizenship

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner that reflects sound ethics, honor, and good citizenship. It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic honesty and integrity and to manifest their commitment to the goals of NUVHS through their conduct and behavior. Students are expected to abide by all NUVHS policies and regulations. Any form of academic dishonesty, or inappropriate conduct by students or applicants may result in penalties ranging from warning to dismissal, as deemed appropriate by NUVHS.

Communication

Throughout this course students will need to be in close contact with their instructor and fellow students. Students are expected to communicate via email and electronic discussion boards. Therefore, students should plan on checking email at least three times a week and participate in the discussion boards during the weeks they are live.

Instructors strongly encourage and welcome open communication. Clear, consistent, and proactive communication will ensure a successful experience in this course. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor immediately if and when a personal situation occurs that affects his/her performance in this class. Being proactive with communication will result in a quick solution to any problems that may occur.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: The World of Law and Ethics

We, as human beings, act in predictable ways most of the time: we follow laws, we make choices, and we go about our daily lives facing many problems and dilemmas. Yet, how do we make the best choices and what factors into our decisions? How do we decide what to do in the many choices that we face each day, like whether to cheat on an exam or whether to tell the salesperson that she gave us too much money back?

This unit focuses on the doctrines of laws and ethics, and how the two doctrines connect and conflict with one another. You'll learn about the different decision making approaches and how individuals can use each approach to solve ethical dilemmas in their lives. You'll also learn about the steps of decision making and about the history of the law in the United States.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to make a well-rounded decision.
- Understand ethics and their applications.
- Understand the importance of laws.
- Understand the history of the US legal system.
- Understand how our laws and ethics are related.

Activities

Unit 1 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 2: The Lawmaking Process

Laws govern our behavior, yet, where do they come from? Without some guideline for the creation of a new rule, how can there ever be a unified code of behavior? In this unit, we will examine the evolution of laws and how they can be challenged or upheld. In doing so, we'll investigate what roles Congress, the courts, the President, and the average citizen play in the forming of laws. We'll also find who has the final say and learn about landmark cases that affect the rights of high school students across the country.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how a law moves through Congress.
- Understand the key players in law formation.
- Understand the President's power of veto.
- Understand what roles a citizen has.
- Understand the ways a court can affect a law.
- Understand how laws are changed.

Activities

Unit 2 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 3: A Look Inside Our Courts

Laws govern our behaviors, but we don't always follow them. We may drive over the speed limit, take something that isn't ours, or do damage to someone else's property. When we don't follow the laws in society, we are committing a crime. We may then come to the attention of the criminal justice system. Sometimes, though, we get in disputes with other individuals that don't involve criminal activity. These disputes can be resolved through the civil court system. In this unit, you'll learn about the steps within each system, the important people involved, and the ways in which cases are resolved.

Learning Objectives

- By the end of this unit, you will be able to:
- Examine the parts and purposes of the state court system.
- Examine the parts and purposes of the federal court system.
- Understand the steps of a civil case.
- Understand the process and people involved in a criminal and civil case.

Activities

Unit 3 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 3 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 4: Criminal Law

The US criminal justice system has very clear rules that citizens need to follow. Individuals who choose to violate these rules are dealt with in specific ways. But what makes someone likely to commit a crime? What type of legal trouble would a person be in, and what will happen to them after they enter the system? In this unit, you will learn about some of the factors that may contribute to crime. You'll learn what the purpose of the criminal justice system is and you will learn about the people involved.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the factors that may lead to crime.
- Understand the individuals involved in crime.
- Understand the purpose of the US criminal justice system.
- Understand the differences between crimes.
- Understand the different levels of liability.

Activities

Unit 4 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Midterm Exam Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Midterm Exam Activities

Midterm Discussion	Discussion	5 points
Midterm Exam	Exam	50 points

Unit 5: Tort Law

Sometimes, through no fault of our own, we may be injured or harmed by something or someone in our society. These injuries may not be caused by criminal actions, so what recourse does that leave us? If the harm was caused because of someone else’s actions or products, we may be able to hold them responsible for their actions, especially if they violated tort laws. We’d do this by having a lawsuit and seeking damages. In this unit, you’ll learn about types of torts, how torts are handled in courts, and examples of different kinds of torts.

Learning Objectives

- Know and understand what torts are.
- Understand the concept of damages.
- Understand the different types of torts.
- Understand the concept of standard of care.
- Understand the idea of product liability.

Activities

Unit 5 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 6: Consumer Law

People like to buy things and by doing that, they contribute to the stability of the economy. But what is the economy and what makes it stable or unstable? In this unit, you'll learn what the economy is, the role consumers play in it, and their rights and responsibilities. We'll discuss some of the major aspects of an economy and what protections exist for individuals. Finally, the unit includes information on contracts, warranties, buying automobiles, and using credit cards.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how a consumer interacts within the market.
- Understand the purpose and reason behind the Federal Trade Commission.
- Understand what consumers are entitled to and what they should give back to the market.
- Understand what the different warranties are, and how they can affect a consumer's purchase.
- Understand the ramifications of legal documents and oral documents and which is better.
- Understand any hidden issues associated with credit cards, interest, payments, late payments, and credit card user rights.

Activities

Unit 6 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 7: Family Law

The family makes up the building blocks of any society, but much has been said about how families are changing in the new millennium. In this unit, you'll learn about the legal and sociological definitions of family, what constitutes a marriage, cohabitation, how to end a relationship, and spousal abuse. You'll also learn how the family is changing and why.

Learning Objectives

- Define a family.
- Understand the meaning of common law marriage.
- Understand the seriousness of domestic abuse.
- Understand the reasons behind cohabitation.
- Understand how the family has legally changed in the last several decades.

Activities

Unit 7 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 8: Community Rights

We all have rights as citizens of the United States of America, but what are they and where do they come from? This unit focuses on the rights of Americans, including the right to free speech, free press, and privacy. You'll also learn about the history and the practical applications of these rights.

Learning Objectives

- Understand each of the rights outlined in the US Bill of Rights.
- Understand the applications of the First Amendment.
- Understand the concept of Free Press and its regulations.
- Be familiar with landmark cases involved in the freedom of speech
- Understand where the concept of the right to privacy comes from.

Activities

Unit 8 Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Final Exam Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Final Exam Activities

Class Reflection Discussion	Discussion	10 points
Final Exam	Exam	50 points

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED

For critical thinking questions, there are no right or wrong answers. For example, a question on your thoughts on why you think people are shy is a pretty open-ended type of question. Grades will be based on the depth of personal insight you present. **Do not simply agree or disagree** with an insight question. We are looking for critical thinking and possibly a related personal experience with the question.

It is important to provide detailed answers for insight/opinion questions.

For review questions, you should produce a more academic answer. For example, "What two categories are norms divided into?" This type of direct question requires a specific answer. Please use full sentences and proper grammar.

When submitting paragraphs, use these guidelines.

1. The first, second or last sentence contains the main idea and key words from the question or assigned topic.
2. Paragraph contains one to three explanatory sentences.
3. Paragraph contains two to four sentences about specific details related to question.
4. Details are colorful, interesting and appropriate.
5. Paragraph ends with a good closing sentence that refers to the main idea without repeating it.
6. Free of spelling and grammatical errors.

GRADE SCALE

The following grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage Earned
A	95%+
A-	90% - 94.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	84% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 83.9%
C+	77% - 79.9%
C	74% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 73.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	64% - 66.9%
D -	60% - 63.9%
F	59% and lower

SUPPORT

At NUVHS you will have access to multiple support teams. Who you contact will depend on the questions you have. Always start by contacting your teacher through the Message Center in the course. Your teacher should be able to answer your question, but if they can't, then they will direct you to another support team. If you have questions about any of the course content, your grades, or course policies, you should contact your instructor.

For questions about your enrollment, transcripts, or general school-wide policies, you can contact **NUVHS Student Services** at info@nuvhs.org or by phone at 866.366.8847. For example, if you would like to withdraw from your course, you should contact Student Services. Please note that a refund for your course can only be obtained if you drop within the first seven days of enrolling in the course.

For help with login/password issues, or other technical issues specific to the Blackboard website, you can contact the team at [National University Blackboard Learn](#). They can also be reached by phone at (888) 892-9095.

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRs)

Engaged Learners

- Demonstrate self-directed learning skills such as time management, and personal responsibility through the completion of course requirements
- Develop an understanding of their own preferred learning styles to enhance their overall academic potential
- Incorporate effective and relevant internet and multimedia resources in their learning process to broaden their knowledge base

Critical Thinkers

- Effectively analyze and articulate sound opinions on a variety of complex concepts
- Illustrate a variety of problem-solving strategies that strengthen college preparation and workforce readiness
- Formulate a framework for applying a variety of technology and internet-based research to enhance information literacy and collaborative thinking

Effective Communicators

- Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to tone and voice in multiple forms of communication
- Express concepts and ideas in a variety of forms
- Enhance communication skills through the use of media rich or other technology resources

Global Citizens

- Appreciate the value of diversity
- Understand the range of local and international issues facing today's global community
- Demonstrate awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity and social responsibility in the 21st century