eDynamic Learning
CAREER & ELECTIVE COURSES

LAW & ORDER
INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES

Course Syllabus
Law and Order: Introduction to Legal Studies

Course Description
Imagine if there were no laws and people could do anything they wanted. It’s safe to say the world would be a pretty chaotic place! Every society needs some form of regulation to ensure peace in our daily lives and in the broader areas of business, family disputes, traffic violations, and the protection of children. Laws are essential to preserving our way of life and must be established and upheld in everyone’s best interest. In Law and Order: Introduction to Legal Studies, you’ll delve deeper into the importance of laws and consider how their application affects us as individuals and communities. Through understanding the court system and how laws are actually enacted, you will learn to appreciate the larger legal process and how it safeguards us all.

Table of Contents

Lesson 1: The World of Law and Ethics ........................................... 3
Lesson 2: The Lawmaking Process ................................................. 4
Lesson 3: A Look Inside Our Courts ............................................... 5
Lesson 4: Criminal Law ................................................................. 6
Midterm Exam ............................................................................. 7
Lesson 5: Tort Law ................................................................. 8
Lesson 6: Consumer Law ............................................................. 9
Lesson 7: Family Law ............................................................... 10
Lesson 8: Community Rights. ...................................................... 11
Final Exam ............................................................................... 12
Lesson 1: The World of Law and Ethics

Lesson Summary
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 lesson 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.
Lesson 2: The Lawmaking Process

**Lesson Summary**
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 lesson, 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.
Lesson 3: A Look Inside Our Courts

Lesson Summary
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 lesson, 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 lesson, 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.
Lesson 4: Criminal Law

Lesson Summary
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 lesson, 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.
Midterm Exam

Learning Objectives
• Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
• Take a course exam based on material from the first four lessons in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)
Lesson 5: Tort Law

Lesson Summary
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 lesson, 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.
Lesson 6: Consumer Law

Lesson Summary
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 instable? In this lesson, 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 lesson 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.
Lesson 7: Family Law

Lesson Summary
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 lesson, 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.
Lesson 8: Community Rights

Lesson Summary
We all have rights as citizens of the United States of America, but what are they and where do they come from? This lesson 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.
Final Exam

Learning Objectives

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