

Course Description

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

- PIEMS Number: 13029600
- General Requirements: This course is recommended for students in Grades 10-12.

Unit 1 Criminal Justice System

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(A) trace the history, structure, and function of state and federal court systems and criminal procedure;
- (c)(1)(G) describe the impact of the grand jury process on court proceedings; and
- (c)(1)(I) explore the impact of public opinion and the legislature on the court system in the United States.

Unit 2 Federal Court vs. State Court Systems

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(B) outline the state court system and the federal court system;
- (c)(1)(C) explain how jurisdiction impacts criminal charges and trial proceedings; and
- (c)(1)(E) distinguish between constitutional law, case law, statutory law, and administrative law.

Unit 3 Constitutional Considerations

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(E) distinguish between constitutional law, case law, statutory law, and administrative law;
- (c)(1)(H) examine relationship of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights upon the court system; and
- (c)(1)(I) explore the impact of public opinion and the legislature on the court system in the United States.

Unit 4 Types of Law

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(E) distinguish between constitutional law, case law, statutory law, and administrative law;

Unit 5 Concept/Purposes of Law

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(D) explain the purposes of law; and
- (c)(1)(I) explore the impact of public opinion and the legislature on the court system in the United States.

Unit 6 Crime Classifications

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(F) identify the differences in processing a misdemeanor and felony case;

Unit 7 Courtroom Professionalism and Personnel

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(2)(A) explain the roles of professionals such as the police, prosecutor, judge, and criminal defense attorney;
- (c)(2)(B) examine the roles and importance of members of the courtroom such as the jury, bailiff, and court;
- (c)(2)(C) analyze the impact of the victim and the defendant upon the courtroom process;
- (c)(2)(D) discuss the dynamics of assembly line justice and discretion found in court proceedings,
- (c)(3)(A) use communication skills to evaluate body language, gestures, verbal tone, and inflection;
- (c)(3)(B) use interpersonal communication skills; and
- (c)(3)(C) use writing skills to facilitate effective field note taking and report writing.

Unit 8 Entry into System

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(3)(C) use writing skills to facilitate effective field note taking and report writing;
- (c)(5)(D) explain the impact of the Eighth Amendment on the criminal justice system; and
- (c)(5)(E) analyze the effect of landmark cases such as *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Weeks v. United States*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Douglas v. California*, and *Escobedo v. Illinois* on individuals entering the criminal justice system.

Unit 9 Search and Seizure

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(5)(A) apply the police responsibilities under the Fourth Amendment regarding search and seizure in a simulated arrest scenario;
- (c)(5)(B) determine if a search initiated in a scenario is proper under the provisions of the Fourth Amendment;
- (c)(5)(C) analyze the exclusionary rule and the fruit of the poisonous tree doctrine to determine if evidence obtained in an illegal search scenario is admissible in court; and
- (c)(5)(E) analyze the effect of landmark cases such as *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Weeks v. United States*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Douglas v. California*, and *Escobedo v. Illinois* on individuals entering the criminal justice system.

Unit 10 Pre-trial

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(1)(G) describe the impact of the grand jury process on court proceedings;
- (c)(3)(C) use writing skills to facilitate effective field note taking and report writing;
- (c)(4)(A) examine the interaction between police and prosecutor in filing complaints and making a decision to charge;
- (c)(4)(B) explain pretrial court proceedings such as rules of discovery, challenges to evidence, and the bail process;
- (c)(4)(D) explore the impact of pleas and plea bargaining on the trial proceedings;
- (c)(4)(E) identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing; and
- (c)(4)(F) evaluate a simulated criminal case.

Unit 11 Trial

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(3)(A) use communication skills to evaluate body language, gestures, verbal tone, and inflection;
- (c)(3)(C) use writing skills to facilitate effective field note taking and report writing;
- (c)(3)(B) use interpersonal communication skills;
- (c)(4)(C) distinguish between direct and circumstantial evidence and burden of proof;
- (c)(4)(E) identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing;
- (c)(4)(F) evaluate a simulated criminal case;
- (c)(4)(G) conduct a mock trial demonstrating understanding of the criminal trial procedure;
- (c)(5)(F) describe the due process rights of a criminal suspect in the trial and sentencing process; and
- (c)(5)(G) explain the impact of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments on the criminal trial process.

Unit 12 Sentencing and Punishment

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(2)(D) discuss the dynamics of assembly line justice and discretion found in court proceedings;
- (c)(4)(E) identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing;
- (c)(4)(G) conduct a mock trial demonstrating understanding of the criminal trial procedure; and
- (c)(5)(F) describe the due process rights of a criminal suspect in the trial and sentencing process.

Unit 13 Appeal and Post-Conviction Review

A. The student is expected to:

- (c)(4)(E) identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing; and
- (c)(4)(G) conduct a mock trial demonstrating understanding of the criminal trial procedure.