

Pre-Law II

Primary Career Cluster:	Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security
Consultant:	Sloan Hudson, (615) 532-2839, Sloan.Hudson@tn.gov
Course Code:	6196
Prerequisite(s):	<i>Pre-Law I</i> (6195)
Credit:	1
Grade Level:	9-11
Graduation Requirements:	This course satisfies one of three credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security courses.
Programs of Study and Sequence:	This is the second course in the Pre-Law program of study.
Aligned Student Organization(s):	SkillsUSA: https://www.skillsusatn.org/ Tracy Whitehead, (615) 532-2804, Tracy.Whitehead@tn.gov
Coordinating Work-Based Learning:	Teachers are encouraged to use embedded WBL activities such as informational interviewing, job shadowing, and career mentoring. For information, visit https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/work-based-learning.html
Available Student Industry Certifications:	None
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Opportunities:	There are no known dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for this course. If interested in developing, reach out to a local postsecondary institution to establish an articulation agreement.
Teacher Endorsement(s):	590, 750
Required Teacher Certifications/Training:	
Teacher Resources:	https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-law-public-safety.html

Course Description

Pre-Law II is the second course designed to prepare students to pursue careers in the field of law. Upon completion of this course, a proficient student will be able to describe the organization of local, national, and state court systems and the legal process, explain the concepts of trials, and differentiate business, labor, and consumer law. In addition, students will model the professional, moral, and ethical standards required of professionals in the field of law.



Program of Study Application

This is the second course in the *Pre-Law* program of study. For more information on the benefits and requirements of implementing this program in full, please visit the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security website at <https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-law-public-safety.html>.

Course Standards

Overview of Courts

- 1) Outline the functions of the state, federal, and military court systems in civil and criminal proceedings; compare and contrast the subject matter jurisdiction of each system, identifying where the systems overlap; explain venue and how it is determined.
- 2) Explore the different ways public opinion and elected officials can affect the civil and criminal justice process; compose a hypothetical case that includes several examples of how public opinion and/or the decisions of elected officials impacted the outcome or deliberation of professionals involved in the case.
- 3) Construct an argumentative essay developing a claim about how the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and landmark cases, such as *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Weeks v. United States*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, and/or *Escobedo v. Illinois*, have affected the civil and criminal justice system and legal professionals in particular.
- 4) Define temporary detention; discuss the circumstances law officers must recognize to detain an individual as well as to conduct a frisk. Review the Landmark Supreme Court decision *Terry v. Ohio* and debate the “stop and frisk” tactics used over the last decade by the New York Police Department and their impact on case outcomes.
- 5) Break down rights provided in the Miranda warning and the circumstances under which officers and other corrections authorities are required to read them to an arrested person. Analyze the possible outcomes in a criminal case in the event the Miranda Warning is not given at the time of interrogation. Explore situations in which rights may be delayed or waived (e.g., if the suspect is considered an “enemy combatant”).
- 6) Define what constitutes a lawful arrest and explain the steps necessary to obtain an arrest warrant. Review and discuss court cases related to unlawful arrests and debate circumstances that should have been in place to make the arrests lawful.



- 7) Analyze how technological advances are changing the landscape of police surveillance. Synthesize research from relevant law journal articles to craft an argumentative essay that discusses potential legal and ethical issues that could arise as technology continues to evolve.

Pre-trial Procedures

- 8) Role play a scenario whereby a defendant is briefed about pre-trial procedures including, but not limited to, arraignment, plea bargaining, grand jury, or preliminary hearings. Include a description for each pre-trial procedure as well as the purpose of each. Write a pre-trial motion for a criminal case.
- 9) Describe how a jury is selected for a civil and criminal case. Explain in a narrative the voir dire process, providing examples of situations in which a juror can be dismissed for cause and describing how an attorney might use his or her peremptory challenges to benefit the client.
- 10) Research and identify Supreme Court decisions (such as *Batson v. Kentucky*) associated with rulings barring the use of race, ethnicity, and other characteristics as a basis for excluding potential jurors. Debate as a class the advantages and disadvantages of the “jury of your peers” system in America.

Trial

- 11) Categorize the types of evidence that can be presented in a civil and criminal trial. Differentiate among the various types of evidence and correlate which party (defense or prosecution) has the burden of proof, including the defendant’s burden to prove the defense claimed.
- 12) Explain in a narrative the purpose and types of motions and challenges to evidence, including the different elements of a motion and how they are organized. Draft an example of a motion to suppress evidence.
- 13) Determine the role of witness testimony in a civil and criminal trial, including such areas as exchange of information/communication between attorneys, the rules of discovery, and the laws and/or rules of ethics governing communication between witnesses and attorneys.



- 14) Investigate news media and professional commentary on how the “CSI Effect” (televised forensic science) has affected the legal system, including a juror’s decision making. Debate in groups whether or not the differences between the portrayal of the justice system in popular media and how the system actually operates have impacted the system’s ability to function effectively.
- 15) Generate a scenario in which a crime is committed and a suspect enters the criminal justice system. Describe in detail what happens at each of the following stages and what relevant actors participate in the process: investigation and arrest; pre-trial activities; adjudication; sentencing; and corrections and re-entry.

Business, Labor, and Consumer Law

- 16) Evaluate the four types of business organizations and give an example of each from businesses in the area. Describe the structure, advantages, and disadvantages of each. Research and present ways legislation affects business organizations in Tennessee.
- 17) Create a list of contractual relationships students have entered into during the recent past (i.e., buying clothes, renting a video, ordering food in a restaurant, buying gas, agreeing to baby sit, etc.) and highlight the essential parts of each. Differentiate between the implied and expressed contracts and those that are bilateral and unilateral. Based on one of the contracts, create a legal memo that outlines the validity and enforceability of the contract.
- 18) Interpret the impact of legislation on worker benefits, employment conditions, and employee rights. Relate the duties of the employer and the duties of the employee associated with the legislation.
- 19) Differentiate the law of sales from various sales transaction scenarios distinguishing laws that regulate consumer protection during transactions. Create consumer credit scenarios that depict the use of credit and the application of laws that regulate consumer credit to illustrate both positive and negative consumer outcomes.
- 20) Examine procedures for borrowing money with secured transactions, analyzing types of negotiable instruments including commercial paper. Examine bankruptcy laws. Review cases and assess the application of bankruptcy laws in each case.



The following artifacts will reside in the student's portfolio:

- technological changes argumentative essay,
- pre-trial motion for a criminal case,
- motion to suppress evidence,
- scenario of suspect's progression through the criminal justice system, and
- legal memo regarding contract.

Standards Alignment Notes

**References to other standards include:

- P21: Partnership for 21st Century Skills [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)
 - Note: While not all standards are specifically aligned, teachers will find the framework helpful for setting expectations for student behavior in their classroom and practicing specific career readiness skills.