

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College**  
**Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ADJ 110      **Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Introduction to Law Enforcement

**Course Description:**

Studies the philosophy and history of law enforcement, presenting an overview of the crime problem and policy response issues. Surveys the jurisdictions and organizations of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Examines the qualification requirements and career opportunities in the law enforcement profession.

Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding and overview of various law enforcement operations and issues impacting today's environment. The student will have a greater understanding for the requirements and responsibilities of law enforcement officers in American society.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

N/A

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental principles, concepts, and historical context of law enforcement in the United States.
- b. Analyze the various roles and responsibilities of law enforcement officers, including community policing, crime prevention, and law enforcement ethics.
- c. Evaluate the legal framework governing law enforcement, including constitutional rights, statutes, and case law relevant to policing practices.
- d. Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to real-world law enforcement scenarios, including ethical dilemmas and community relations.
- e. Develop effective communication skills necessary for interacting with diverse communities, including verbal and written communication in law enforcement contexts.
- f. Explain the relationship between law enforcement and other components of the criminal justice system, such as the courts and corrections.
- g. Assess current trends and challenges facing law enforcement, including technology, mental health issues, and public perception.
- h. Integrate knowledge from lectures and readings with practical experiences through guest speakers, field trips, or internships related to law enforcement.
- i. Conduct basic research on a law enforcement topic and present their findings, demonstrating an ability to analyze and synthesize information.
- j. Recognize the importance of cultural competence in law enforcement and demonstrate strategies for effective engagement with diverse populations.

**Major Topics to be Included:**

- Evolution of policing in the U.S.
- Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies
- Overview of the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Community policing and its benefits
- Ethical dilemmas faced by law enforcement officers
- Basics of crime scene management
- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Impact of technology on policing (e.g., body cameras, social media)
- Understanding cultural differences in communities
- Innovations and advancements in law enforcement

**Effective Date/Updated:** September 24, 2024