

Introduction to Law and the American Legal System

Course Credit	1.0
Grade Level(s)	10-12
Prerequisite(s)	

Introduction to Law and the American Legal System is designed to acquaint students with the basic legal principles common to business and personal activities. This course is an overview of criminal, civil, contract, and consumer law. Emphasis is placed on business law as it affects young adults with focus on the legal rights and responsibilities of students as citizens, consumers, employees and employers. This course offers exploration of law as a career, as well as a mock trial simulation.

Foundational standards, shown in the table below, are an important part of every course. Through these standards, students learn and apply safety concepts, explore career opportunities and requirements, practice the skills needed to succeed in the workplace, develop leadership qualities and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), learn and practice essential digital literacy skills, and work toward meeting and maintaining physical fitness standards for public safety. The foundational standards are to be incorporated throughout the course.

Foundational Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Incorporate safety procedures in handling, operating, and maintaining equipment; utilizing materials and protective equipment; maintaining a safe work area; and handling hazardous materials and forces.2. Demonstrate effective workplace and employability skills, including communication, positive work ethic, problem-solving, time management, and teamwork.3. Explore the range of careers available in the field, investigate their educational requirements, and demonstrate job-seeking skills including resume-writing and interviewing.4. Demonstrate digital literacy by using digital and electronic tools appropriately, safely, and ethically.5. Participate in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) to increase knowledge and skills and to enhance leadership and teamwork.
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Introduction to Law and the American Legal System Content Standards

Each content standard completes the stem “*Students will...*”

Career Requirements	1. Demonstrate skills necessary for a career in a legal field, including written communication, public speaking, and legal research skills, through simulated court proceedings.
History and Development	2. Obtain and share information about the impact of significant Supreme Court decisions on law enforcement and criminal justice proceedings. <i>Examples: Miranda v. Arizona, Terry v. Ohio, Mapp v. Ohio</i>
Sources of Law	3. Obtain and present information about fundamental sources of law in American society. 4. Research, compile, and communicate information to compare and contrast the history and applications of common law and statutory law.
Ethics	5. Describe ethical and professional responsibility in the legal profession. 6. Model appropriate and ethical use of data and communications technology. <i>Example: maintaining confidentiality of medical and criminal records</i>
Criminal Law	7. Explain the roles and responsibilities of participants in the criminal court process. 8. Explain the purpose of each step of the criminal court proceedings. 9. Differentiate between ethical and unethical behaviors in criminal proceedings.

**Civil
Law**

10. Explain how principles of tort law affect human behavior.
 - a. Analyze factual scenarios for the presence of actionable torts.
 - b. Define *negligence* as it pertains to civil law and give examples of negligence that could be encountered in everyday life.
11. Investigate and share information about provisions of statutes designed to protect consumers.
 - a. Differentiate between state and federal statutes regarding consumer rights.
Example: fair debt collections law
 - b. Explain basic bankruptcy laws.
12. Analyze the structure of the civil court system.
 - a. Identify fundamental concepts of commercial law.
 - b. Obtain and share information about provisions of probate law, including types of property, ownership rights and responsibilities, Alabama property management requirements, and real estate broker licenses.
13. Obtain and share information about provisions of family law including requirements for marriage, divorce, child custody, and adoption.

**Constitutional
Law**

14. Summarize the development of the United States Constitution.
15. Explain fundamental constitutional rights, including those in the Bill of Rights.
16. Research, evaluate, and share information about current issues involving constitutional law.
17. Compare jurisdictions and types of cases heard in federal, state, and local court systems.
18. Research and share information about basic rules of evidence in the justice system.
19. List and give examples of types of evidence presented in court proceedings.
20. Obtain and share information about admissibility of evidence in the legal process.