

Legal Services

Course Overview and Syllabus

Grade level: 9–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

Legal Services is a high school semester-long course that provides students with an overview of the system of laws in the United States, the practice areas, and career options in the field. Students learn about how the legal system operates, the consequences to those who commit crimes, and how disputes are settled, as well as how criminal and civil cases reach court and are resolved. Students learn about the courtroom and the basics of a typical court case. Students explore constitutional rights and legal safeguards, types of evidence, as well as how technology has changed the practice of law. They also learn about legal education and various careers in the legal field.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Learn about the origins of law in the United States and the structure of the U.S. legal system
- Discuss people and procedures involved in legal cases
- Examine two areas of law relevant in law enforcement and throughout the legal system: civil rights and the use of technology
- Compare and contrast evidence and testimony as two ways that parties in a lawsuit provide proof for their side of the case
- Explore careers in the legal field and legal education

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of videos, readings, and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	20%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Assignments	10%
Projects	30%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** The Law: Origins and Structure
- Unit 2:** The Courtroom and the Case
- Unit 3:** Contemporary Law Topics
- Unit 4:** Evidence and Forensics
- Unit 5:** Post-Secondary Legal Education and Careers in the Legal Field