

WILCO AREA CAREER CENTER
Law Enforcement Course Syllabus
LENF.101: An Introduction to Policing
Fall 2026 (12 weeks)

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Hours: Monday - Friday 7:45am to 8:00am and 2:10pm to 3:00pm

Course Description:

A dual credit course covering the history of law enforcement, an in-depth analysis of the American Constitution as it applies to law enforcement and a career orientation emphasizing the realities of a career in law enforcement at local, state and federal levels of service. Students who successfully complete the course receive (3) credit hours at Joliet Junior College along with elective course credits at their home high school. During the course students will participate in both lecture and practical law enforcement exercises.

Books, Supplies, and Supplementary Material:

Textbook: An Introduction to Policing, 10th edition, Dempsey, Frost, Carter, 2025, Cengage Learning.

Uniform: On physical training days and on professional visit days, students are required to wear their Wilco shirt, industry appropriate pants (BDUs, cargo, sweatpants) that are a solid black, navy blue, or gray color with no stripes, emblems, logos, etc., and solid color shoes. When wearing BDU or cargo pants, a solid black or brown belt is also required.

Technology: Google Classroom is the course technology platform. Students should bring their own laptops to class daily and also check Google Classroom daily for announcements or new information. Cell phones are not permitted in class. Earbuds and earphones are permitted in class during individual activity time, but not during class lectures.

Method of Instruction:

The course consists of lectures, classroom discussions, presentations, physical training, scenario-based training, homework assignments, and practical activities. Guest



speakers give students a broad idea of the variety of career opportunities that exist in the law enforcement field.

Student Learning Objectives:

This is a college level course with college level expectations. At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- ☐ Explain the primary means of policing prior to the establishment of formal departments, the influence of the English on American policing, and regional differences and events within the United States that have shaped American policing up to the current day.
- ☐ Describe the responsibilities, budgets, and personnel numbers of local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies and discuss their differences.
- ☐ Identify the managerial concepts that must be considered when organizing a police department, and issues that are faced within these considerations.
- ☐ Describe the standards in the police selection process, the police recruiting process, the characteristics of a good police officer, and police training for new officers.
- ☐ Discuss police roles and identify the primary and secondary goals and objectives of policing, and explain different police styles of operations.
- ☐ Explain the police subculture, characterize the police personality, and understand the effects of stress on a police officer.
- ☐ Identify and describe the various gender and underrepresented groups and the history of discrimination within these groups.
- ☐ Define and describe ethics in policing.
- ☐ Describe the traditional methods of doing police work and the evolution of police patrol operations.
- ☐ Articulate the meaning of police and community relations and explain public attitudes towards policing.
- ☐ Understand state and constitutional law and their application in policing.

Assessment of Learning

Students will be assessed through formative assignments and quizzes, summative unit and final exams, task assessments, a research paper, and participation. Grades will be based on a cumulative point total, but students should not count solely on assessment points as participation and attendance will also factor into final grades. Grades will be based on the following grading scale:



90% to 100% is an “A” and is representative of performance that exceeds expectations and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

80% to 89.99% is a “B” and is representative of performance that meets, and at times exceeds the expectations of performance, and indicates a good understanding of the subject.

70% to 79.99% is a “C” and is representative of performance that meets expectations and indicates an adequate level of understanding.

60% to 69.99% is a “D” and is representative of performance that is inadequate and inconsistently meets expectations. It is difficult to proceed in the course without additional work.

50% to 59.99% is an “F” and is representative of performance that consistently fails to meet course expectations.

Final Course Grading:

Weekly assignments equal 20%

Unit exams equal 10%

Weekly quizzes equal 20%

Participation, preparedness, job readiness equals 10%

Research paper/project equals 10%

Task assessments equal 10%

Discussion questions equal 10%

Final exam equals 10%

Students must maintain a “C” grade or better to maintain dual enrollment status and receive college credit from Joliet Junior College. The instructor will drop students with a grade of “D” or lower. Students are expected to participate in all activities including physical training.

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

Students are expected to follow all classroom procedures and adhere to all Wilco policies as well as Wilco guidelines for attendance outlined in the Wilco Student Handbook. The handbook can be found on Wilco’s website at www.wilco.k12.il.us.

Attendance is required for all classes.

Make-up Policy:

Students with a written excused absence or suspension will be allowed to make up work that was missed during the absence. Work should be completed on the ratio of 1-day



absent to 1-day make up time, 2-days absent to 2-days make up time, etc. 5% points will be deducted for each day late and no work will be accepted beyond 7 days late.

Extra Credit Policy:

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Academic Honor Code:

The objective of the academic honor code is to sustain a learning-centered environment in which all students are expected to demonstrate integrity, honor, responsibility, and recognize the importance of being accountable for one's academic behavior. Instances of cheating and plagiarism may result in a failing grade in the course.

College statement about F's in a class and withdrawal from a class:

Students may withdraw from a course by processing an add/drop form during regular office hours through the JJC Registration and Records Office at the Main campus or the Romeoville campus, or by phone at (815) 744-2200. Please note the withdrawal dates on your bill or student schedule. Every course has its own withdrawal date. Failure to withdraw properly may result in a failing "F" grade in the course. At any time prior to the deadline dates, the instructor will withdraw a student from college credit because of poor attendance, poor academic performance, or inappropriate academic behavior.

Intellectual Property:

Students own and hold the copyright to the original work they produce in and for class. It is a widely accepted practice to use student work as part of the school's internal valuation and assessment process, or other efforts to improve teaching and learning and in promoting programs and recruiting new students. If you do not wish your work to be used in this manner, notify the instructor.

Professionalism:

Students are expected to handle themselves professionally while in class. Professionalism includes attending and being prepared for class, being engaged, being active participants, and adhering to all rules and regulations. Students can be expected to be treated as college level students, and will be required to conform to standards of professionalism that align with the "real world." Students must direct comments and perspectives to the class in a professional manner. Due to the controversial issues related to law enforcement, if you are offended by the comments of a classmate or instructor, please speak to the instructor privately. Many times issues can be resolved and result in valuable learning experiences for students and instructors.



Student Support:

Students with a documented disability, including a learning disability, that requires special accommodations should identify themselves within the first few days of the semester. Please contact the instructor before or after class. Student services are available to all students, and include tutoring, learning disabilities support, and testing accommodations.

Safety:

It is the responsibility of the student to not engage in any activity that would endanger themselves or others. Students must notify the instructor immediately if they become aware of an unsafe situation.

College Documentation Styles:

The selected documentation style for this course is APA 7th edition.

Course Outline:**Part 1: Police History and Organization (chs 1-3)**

Chapter 1 Police History

Chapter 2 Organizing Public Security in the United States

Chapter 3 Organizing the Police Department

Part 2: The Personal Side of Policing (chs 4-8)

Chapter 4 Becoming a Police Officer

Chapter 5 The Police Role and Police Discretion

Chapter 6 Police Culture, Personality, and Stress

Chapter 7 Underrepresented Groups in Policing

Chapter 8 Police Ethics and Police Deviance

Part 3: Police Operations (chs 9-13)

Chapter 9 Patrol Operations

Chapter 10 Investigations

Chapter 11 Police and Their Clients

Chapter 12 Community Policing

Chapter 13 Police and the Law

Part 4: Critical Issues in Policing (chs 14-15)

Chapter 14 Computers, Technology, and Criminalistics in Policing

Chapter 15 Homeland Security



*There will be a unit exam for each part listed above. There will not be a Part 4 unit exam, it will be included in the final exam.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will generally be given on Friday of each week covering the chapter content of that week.

Task Assessments:

Radio usage and procedures.

Handcuffing

Traffic stops

Research Paper:

Students will be assigned a research paper that is scheduled to be due before Thanksgiving. Assignment directions and grading rubric will be provided after the semester begins.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is subject to change anytime throughout the course and at the discretion of the instructor.

Effective Date:

8/4/26

