

North Hennepin Community College

PLEG 1111: Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course introduces students to the paralegal profession, including the nature of paralegal work, job requirements and opportunities. Students will study the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and the ethical standards applicable to paralegals. The students will learn about the American legal system, including sources of law, court systems and procedures. The students will study the relationship between state and federal laws and procedure and alternative dispute resolution. Students will also study the substantive areas of torts and criminal law.

PSEO students may not register for this course until they have completed all general education courses required for the Paralegal A.S. degree.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/09/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. a. The paralegal profession
- b. Career opportunities for paralegals
- c. Rules of Professional Responsibility and ethical standards applicable to paralegals
- d. Nature and sources of laws
- e. The Judicial systems including state and federal courts
- f. Civil procedure
- g. Constitutional law
- h. Torts
- i. Criminal law
- j. Administrative Law

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the paralegal field of employment (ELO 1, Program Goal 1)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the paralegal and of the lawyer (ELO 1, ELO 3, Program Goal 1)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of legal ethics as it applies to the legal profession (ELO 3, Program Goal 2)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of those ethical principles that govern a paralegal's work (ELO 3, Program Goal 2)
5. Demonstrate an understanding of basic legal terminology and concepts. (ELO 2, Program Goal 1)
6. Demonstrate basic reasoning by deduction, by induction, and by analogy as applied to law (ELO 2, Program Goal 4)
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the following topics: (ELO 2, Program Goal 1)
 - i. the nature and purpose of law
 - ii. sources of law
 - iii. court systems
 - iv. civil procedure
 - v. trial procedures
 - vi. judicial remedies
 - vii. torts
 - viii. criminal law

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World --Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills-- Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement-- Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.