

Public Safety and Criminal Justice 2011 - 2012 Program of Study & Course Syllabus

Instructor: Tom Hartly

**Embedded Credit (s): 1 Science
1 English
Option for Social Studies
5 Program Credits**

Program Description:

The primary mission of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice program is to expose students to the broad range of career opportunities that exist in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety/Emergency Management career clusters. A secondary mission which flows from the first is to assist the students in making informed life decisions regarding risky behaviors which might inhibit or negate their future employment if a career in Criminal Justice is pursued. Further, the program will seek to provide students with a strong working knowledge of the United States system of justice and by that knowledge make them more informed citizens who are better prepared to contribute to their home communities.

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice fields are constantly evolving as society adapts to new realities of life and as new technologies expand the techniques and methods available to the practitioners. This program seeks to expose students to the latest available technologies where applicable and to foster an in-depth understanding of the principles of the discipline by examining the history and evolution of the field by examining theory and practice throughout time.

A sound basis in Constitutional Law landmarks as well as Criminal and Motor Vehicle Law will be fostered through case studies, lectures and practical application exercises. Training will be carried out concurrent with the academic curriculum that seeks to build for the students a broad experiential component in multiple related disciplines. These will include several areas in which certifications will be either mandatory or optional dependant on the individual student's desires and the program requirements.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course the students will demonstrate:

1. An understanding of basic concepts within each area of focus including but not limited to:
 - a. History and development of the field
 - b. Practice and theory
 - c. Common practices
 - d. Ongoing research
 - e. Competing philosophies
 - f. Non-Occidental practices and philosophies
 - g. New and emergent practices
 - h. Societal implications of change vs. status quo
 - i. Career opportunities
2. Safe operation and handling of all relative equipment
3. Proper utilization of protective/coercive techniques
4. Codes of Conduct for the various career fields
5. Basic investigative techniques and scientific methodology.
6. Interpretation and application of various laws, regulations and procedures.
7. Familiarity and competence in oral and written communications utilized in the Criminal Justice field
8. A working knowledge of the American system of jurisprudence.

9. An understanding of the complex nature of Emergency Management and its sub-systems
10. A basic understanding of the roles of the various participants in the spectrum of public safety careers.
11. A firm foundation in the use of computers and other technologies in relation to public safety.
12. A clear understanding of research methodologies related to the area of study
13. Ability to relate hands-on experience to career choices and educational opportunities
14. Ability to synthesize information and experiences into their decision processes and life-style choices
15. Critical thinking and the ability to plan, execute, and assess operational activities as well as tactical and strategic planning and analysis.

Classroom/Field Expectations:

1. Independent Thinking: ability to evaluate and make decisions through investigation.
2. Initiative: desire to work to their individual potential
3. Maturity: Act appropriately in a variety of stressful, trying or dangerous situations in controlled exercises and in their individual lives
4. Respect: respect for the individual, team/class, instructor and others
5. Honesty: a willingness and commitment to honesty in all undertakings regardless of personal cost
6. Accountability: the ability to take responsibility for ones actions and inactions, both in relation to work assignments and in their personal lives.

Course Completion Requirements/Criteria for Evaluation:

1. Competency and completion of course objectives
2. Satisfactory completion of homework and assignments
3. Class participation
4. Quizzes and tests
5. Regular class attendance is mandatory for successful completion

Grading Protocol

Project/ Assignment	% of Grade
Quizzes and Tests	30%
Homework and Lab assignments	30%
Application of knowledge, Attitude, Responsibility, Initiative, Appearance	30%
Safety and Proper use of equipment and techniques	10%

**Recommended courses and activities students should complete
prior to enrolling in Public Safety and Criminal Justice**

PRIOR to enrolling, students should be at or above grade level requirements in:

- English** Reading comprehension and writing ability are key areas and any remediation should be completed before enrolling.
- Science** A sound foundation in basic science, scientific method and basic lab skills.
Recommendation that Chemistry and/or Physics be taken.
- Mathematics** Completion of at a minimum, Math Connections II or equivalent.
Recommendation that Algebra 1 and Geometry are taken.
- History** History requirements should be completed.
- Art** Art requirements should be completed.
- Physical Ed** Requirements Completed
- Driver's Ed.** At a minimum student **should** have a valid driver's permit.

*In addition: Careers in law enforcement have certain legal requirements, among which are: no criminal history, no present drug usage, and a high level of maturity. In the industry these characteristics are evaluated by investigation, polygraph examination, psychological testing and drug testing. Students should be fully cognizant of these facts before choosing this career path and be prepared for this type of commitment. NOTE: most agencies do not allow tattoos that are visible in uniform or on duty if out of uniform, **THINK** before getting a tattoo!*

Articulation Agreements and Dual Enrollment Courses Available

There are currently no articulation agreements or dual enrollments available. These agreements are being sought with: Vermont Technical College, Community College of Vermont and New Hampshire Technical College.

Industry Recognized Certification

Students have the opportunity to become certified in several areas, including but not limited to:

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|------------------------|--|
| Firearms Safety | Helicopter Landing Zone Operations (DHART) |
| Rope Rescue Techniques | Traffic Flagger |
| OC (Mace) Training | AED/CPR |
| First Responder | Ice Rescue |
| EMT | FEMA ICS 100-700 |
| Fire Fighter 1 | |

Note: Some certifications may be subject to age restrictions. Some certifications may require student to travel or spend out of school time in related classes.

Occupations and Colleges

Most occupations in these fields prefer that a student obtain a two or four year degree. Many however can be entered upon graduation at an entry level. There are literally hundreds of occupations available among which are:

Police Officer	Hazmat Responder	Legal Secretarial
Crime Scene Technician	Probation Officer	Transportation Security Officer
Dispatcher	Parole Officer	Homeland Security
EMT/First Responder	Security Consultant	Military
Wildlands Firefighter	Security Analyst	Public information Officers
Corrections Officer	Emergency Services Planner	Immigration Officer
Security Officer	Loss Prevention Specialists	Customs Officer
Private Investigator	Court Reporters	Park Ranger
Polygraph Examiner	Court Officer/Bailiff	Corrections Administrator
Forensic Artist	Paralegal	

While students obviously have a broad range of schools to choose from the following schools have programs in this area:

- ✓ Castleton State College
- ✓ Lyndon State College
- ✓ Johnson State College
- ✓ Vermont Technical College
- ✓ Community College of Vermont
- ✓ New Hampshire Technical College
- ✓ Springfield College

RTCC's Public Safety & Criminal Justice program provides a sound foundation for preparation for any college or university that offers a program in this field.