

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ADJ 295

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Topics in Administration of Justice: Use of Force

**Course Description:** Focuses on issues related to use of force in law enforcement. Includes court cases, policies and procedures, media and politics, and the tools and techniques used by law enforcement personnel. Prerequisites: ADJ 100 or LGL 110; ADJ 130 or LGL 218. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** This course will serve as an elective for students in the Administration of Justice and Paralegal Studies AAS degree programs.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisites: ADJ 100 or LGL 110; ADJ 130 or LGL 218. Exceptions require approval of the program head.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Summarize and discuss the three major U.S. Supreme Court cases relating to use of force;
- b. Explain use of force policies and procedures;
- c. Describe the effect politics and the media have on use of force;
- d. Delineate the tools for use of force and their appropriate application against a resisting subject in given situations; and
- e. Discuss, from an empirical perspective, the strengths and weaknesses of different control techniques used by law enforcement personnel.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Tennessee v. Garner
- b. Johnson v. Glick
- c. Graham v. Connor
- d. The Constitution of the United States
- e. When and how to apply force
- f. Application of empty hand and less lethal tools and tactics
- g. Application of deadly force
- h. Effect of the media on the public's perception of use of force by law enforcement personnel
- i. The effect of politics on use of force by law enforcement personnel
- j. Law enforcement policies and procedures relating to use of force
- k. Application of control techniques

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