LAW 1512: Minnesota Traffic Code

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 2
Lecture Hours/Week: 2
Lab Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

Minnesota Traffic Code is an introduction to the elements of traffic offenses. These elements are analyzed and applied to hypothetical situations. Included are definitions and terms. This course covers instruction in Minnesota automobile insurance law (Chapter 65B), motor vehicle registration law (Chapter 168), traffic law (Chapter 169), and driver’s license law (Chapter 171).

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 12/13/2016 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Minnesota Traffic Code
   A. Basic organization
   B. Purpose
   C. Principles
2. Traffic Violation Deterrents
   A. Patrol
   B. Special Details
3. Profiling
4. Traffic Related Statutes
   A. Automobile insurance (Chapter 65B)
   B. Motor vehicle registration laws (Chapter 168)
      1. General motorist
      2. Commercial Vehicle
   C. Motor Vehicle Operations (Chapter 169)
   D. DUI/DWI laws (169A)
   E. Drivers’ licenses (Chapter 171)
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will describe the basic organization, purpose and principles of the Minnesota Criminal Code and its implications for law enforcement including (list is not comprehensive):
   a. understanding key traffic related terms (Minn. Stat. 169.011) as well as the terms reckless or careless driving,
   b. describing violations of driving rules, parking and stopping violations, and vehicle equipment violations,
   c. how and when traffic laws apply to authorized emergency vehicles, and
   d. laws regarding driving while impaired. (2.10.1)
2. Students will discuss non-enforcement deterrents to traffic violations, i.e., police presence/visibility, speed bumps. (2.10.2)
3. Students will explain vehicle registration and insurance requirements in Minnesota. (2.10.3)
4. Students will distinguish between different classes and type of licenses, endorsements and permits and explain the circumstances under which an individual is exempt from licensing requirements. (2.10.4)
5. Students will explain the concept of racially based profiling (Minn. Stat. 626.8471) and other profiling that is based on false assumptions about groups of people and discuss:
   a. the impact of the Whren v. United States decision
   b. the importance of impartial policing,
   c. the difference between the terms pre-textual stop and racial profiling and the problems associated with racial profiling by law enforcement,
   d. how racial profiling impacts law enforcement credibility and community trust,
   e. how to handle the perception of unfair or biased treatment of members of the public by law enforcement
   f. the importance of an officer's ability to articulate valid reasons for vehicle stops. (2.12.1)
6. Students will explain the purpose of proactive traffic enforcement and vehicle equipment checks/stops. (3.12.1)
7. Students will identify the following elements of driving conduct as they relate to Minnesota Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws: speed, local authority, right of way, traffic crashes, railroad crossings, school buses, stopping, standing and parking, reckless and careless driving, open bottle, criminal vehicular operation and fleeing a peace officer, signs and signals, and turning. (3.12.2)
8. Students will identify the equipment necessary to operate a vehicle in proper working condition including: lighting, brakes, seat belts and child restraints, mufflers, windshields, bumpers; and, identify the exemption from equipment restrictions. (3.12.3)
9. Discuss how traffic law applies to bicycles and pedestrians. (3.12.4)
10. Students will identify a variety of drivers’ licenses including international driver’s license and out of state licenses, various types of Minnesota drivers’ licenses, and various license statuses including current, expired, canceled, CONAX, suspended, and revoked. (3.12.6)
11. Students will explain how diplomatic immunity may impact issuance of a traffic citation. (3.12.7)
12. Students will explain why law enforcement enforces alcohol and beverage control laws and laws related to driving under the influence including; the effects of alcohol on the body and driving, and the relationship between DWI violations and crashes. (3.12.8)

13. Students will describe the terms Driving While Impaired (DWI) and Driving Under the Influence (DUI). (3.14.29)

14. Students will apprehending violators of DWI/DUI laws. (3.14.32)

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

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Working Productively and Cooperatively
Communicating Clearly and Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically
Social/Civic Responsibility

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Examination of your performance is directly related to the performance objectives. Each student is expected to prepare for class, attend lectures, participate in class activities, participate and implement input into class discussions, complete examinations and hand in outside assignments when due. Attendance is crucial in this class.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

SPECIAL INFORMATION:
We cannot plan, and subsequently establish training for every conceivable eventuality or situation which an officer will confront. However, we intend to increase awareness of risks and show various tactics at a basic entry level with the understanding that procedures may change from department to department.

AASC APPROVAL DATE: December 13, 2016

REVIEW DATE: December 2021