

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

ATA 200 Advanced Tactics Academy

6 Credits, 5 lec, 2 lab

PREREQUISITE: Student must have an AZ POST Certificate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares students to operate at the level of a senior patrol officer by developing their ability to manage crime scenes, conduct thorough investigations, and respond effectively to mental health and crisis calls. Students will refine their skills in use of force, de-escalation, advanced report writing, critical incident response, vehicle pursuits, and culturally competent policing. The course also builds awareness of bias and its impact on investigative outcomes, reinforces the principles of community policing, and introduces foundational concepts in tactical command, critical incident management, and use-of-force reviews as preparation for future first-line supervisory roles.

1. COURSE GOAL

Obtain the Advanced Tactics Academy block of instruction. Receive and obtain mastery over the concepts, tactics, and skills within each topic of instruction, listed directly above.

2. CLASS GOALS

- 2.1 Manage crime scenes and conduct a thorough investigation at the senior patrol officer level commiserate with a basic Investigations level investigation.
- 2.2 Respond to a mental health and crisis call for service and handle it at the level demanded of a senior patrol officer.
- 2.3 Conduct use of force and de-escalation operations at the level of a senior patrol officer.
- 2.4 Complete an advanced police report commiserate with a senior level patrol officer.
- 2.5 Respond to a critical incident and perform commiserate with a senior level patrol officer.
- 2.6 Conduct a vehicle pursuit commiserate with a senior level patrol officer.
- 2.7 Perform patrol duties in a culturally competent manner, commiserate with a senior level patrol officer.
- 2.8 Have an awareness of bias, and how it may affect police investigations and outcomes.
- 2.9 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of community policing at the level of a senior level patrol officer.
- 2.10 How to set up tactical command (prep for first line supervision).
- 2.11 Prepare for critical incident response (prep for first line supervision).
- 2.12 Parameters to conducting use of force reviews (prep for first line supervision).

3. OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 3.1 Respond to a complex crime scene, secure it for processing, engage appropriate resources to process the scene and investigate through to completion.
- 3.2 Respond to a call for service involving a person experiencing a mental health crisis, stabilize the scene and all participants, request appropriate resources from community partners (behavioral health units) etc., determine if there is a crime at hand and if beginning prosecution of that crime is purposeful for this unique situation. If there is no crime at issue, bring community partner influence and assistance to bear to resolve the incident as much as possible.
- 3.3 Respond to a call for service or make a proactive stop and use reasonable force options based upon the information known to that officer at that time, based upon their training and experience, during this tense, uncertain, rapidly evolving situation. Employ de-escalation strategies as applicable and resolve

- the situation with the reasonable amount of force used within federal and state law, and agency policy and SOP, and training.
- 3.4 Complete an advanced police report, based upon a thorough investigation of the crime scene, documenting any evidence lawfully recovered, witnesses found and their statements, video footage available, victim statement, and suspect documentation and leads, to include statement if suspect is available. This level of report writing is that of an (FTO) Field Training Officer completing a report on a crime known to go to trial.
  - 3.5 Respond to a critical incident in all its complexity, secure the scene and the people/vehicle(s)/items involved, get appropriate resources to the scene to assist, to include supervision, devise a plan of resolution (generally use of force/deescalation) and a plan of investigation. Put both of these plans into action, first resolution of the critical nature and second investigation.
  - 3.6 Conduct a vehicle pursuit in accordance with policy and training. Request appropriate resources to bring the incident to resolution. Conduct pursuit driving, communication, tactical planning, use of a grappler or PIT maneuver, vehicle containment and high risk stop to resolve the incident. Secure the scene and set up for Investigations to take over, if available.
  - 3.7 Describe the differences between cultures, what this means for a Law Enforcement contact/investigation/action, and how to bring to bear appropriate resources to facilitate a successful contact/investigation/LE action.
  - 3.8 Explain the difference between implicit and explicit bias. How do these principles affect a Law Enforcement contact/investigation/action, and how may we work within known parameters to ensure an equitable, effective outcome for all involved.
  - 3.9 Describe the principles of community policing and how to bring those principles to bear in a police beat/area to be most effective in engaging stakeholders to resolve small issues with potential significant growth factors if left unchecked. Apply state, local, city/county ordinances within the spirit of the concept to meet the desired end sought by all stakeholders.
  - 3.10 Discuss the principles of tactical command and how to employ them in normal crime scenes or stops to effectively employ the concepts of incident command at the lowest possible level to be effective in the law enforcement operation.
  - 3.11 Articulate the principles of critical incident response from the first line supervisor's perspective. Take the lead officer role and begin application of these principles in the absence of a supervisor, setting up scene containment, begin to neutralize the suspect(s) unlawful activities concluded with the suspect(s) containment/detention/arrest, witness containment and processing, evidence containment and processing, and finally beginning the investigative process and preparing to hand the scene over to Investigators.
  - 3.12 Explain the principles of conducting a use of force review as an aspiring first line supervisor. Ensure the scene is contained and being investigated, interview the officer(s) involved and obtain their statements, ensure photos are taken of all persons/items involved, interview witnesses or ensure they have been interviewed, interview the suspect(s) and ensure evidence has been secured from them to include photographs. Direct medical attention to the parties who need it and follow up with any people transported for further care. Finally, practice writing a use of force review with all the necessary components.

#### 4. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lecture
- 4.2 Multi-media presentations
- 4.3 Group discussion
- 4.4 Tabletop exercises

#### 5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Group discussion
- 5.2 Participation
- 5.3 Tabletop exercises
- 5.4 Scenario based exercises

6. EVALUATION

- 6.1 Participation – Students are required to participate in class discussion.
- 6.2 Written tests – Students must pass regular course tests with a score of 80 % or better.
- 6.3 Practical tests – Students must pass regular practical tests and scenarios graded pass/fail. Remediation is available in a reasonable amount of attempts (generally 1-2) for the particular scenario and student.

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to communicate with the Executive Director of Integrated Public Safety Education. No credit towards stackable certificates or individual study will be afforded to those who do not attend the full class(es).
- 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for "No Show" reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.  
Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.  
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
  - Submitting an academic assignment
  - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
  - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
  - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
  - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course