How to load a semi-automatic pistol- (done with demo of unloaded firearm and dummy rounds)

1. Remove the magazine from the gun if it is not already out of the frame
2. Place the rear of the cartridge (the end with the primer) on top of the magazine follower and press down and back on the cartridge to seat it in the magazine. Repeat with as many cartridges as you wish to load into the gun.
3. Once the magazine is loaded, insert it firmly into the frame. You may hear a “click” signifying the magazine is seated in the frame.
4. Tug on the bottom of the magazine to confirm it is completely seated in the firearm.
5. Pull back on the slide firmly and let the slide go once it is all the way to the rear. (Note- Do NOT let you hand follow the slide forward as it loads the chamber and this may result in a malfunction.)
6. The gun is now loaded and will fire if the trigger is pressed.
   1. If the gun is striker fired (such as a Glock or similar), there is nothing else to do other than keep it pointed in a safe direction and holster or shoot it if you are at a safe place to do so (range etc)
   2. If the gun is a double action with a decocker- decock the hammer and holster or fire it in a safe manner if you are at a place where you can do so (range etc). If the gun has a safety, engage the safety before storing the gun in a holster or other safe place
   3. If the gun is a single action, you can engage the safety (called cocked and locked) or you can use two hands to hold the hammer and slowly depress the trigger to let the hammer come forward to the “half cocked” position.
7. Be sure to safely store the gun either in a holster of your choice or other safe place.

How to unload a semi-automatic handgun- (also done with demo to students)

* 1. Press the magazine release to remove the magazine and store safely
  2. If the gun has a safety, keep it engaged. In any event, pull back on the slide firmly to eject the cartridge located in the gun’s chamber.
  3. Keep the slide pulled back and visibly check there is no cartridge in the chamber of the gun.
  4. The gun is now safe (cleared) and can be stored or cleaned as desired.