

Canterbury High School
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Social Science Department
Semester 1 – 2010/2011 – Course Outline

Course Title: Understanding Canadian Law
Course Code: CLU3M
Prerequisite: Grade 10 History
Teacher: Mr. Griplas

Grade Level: 11
Credit Value: 1

Course Overview 110 hours

This course explores Canadian law with a focus on legal issues that are relevant to people's everyday lives. Students will investigate fundamental legal concepts and processes to gain a practical understanding of Canada's legal system, including the criminal justice system. Students will use critical-thinking, inquiry, and communication skills to develop informed opinions on legal issues and apply this knowledge in a variety of ways and settings, including case analysis, legal research projects, mock trials, and debates.

Strands: Course Expectations

Heritage

- Explain what law is and why societies have laws and describe the different categories of law;
- Identify the historical roots of Canadian law
- Explain who is responsible for law making in Canada and how laws are developed, interpreted, applied, challenged, and enforced

Rights and Freedoms

- Describe the sources of Canadian rights and freedoms and explain how rights and freedoms may differ and conflict;
- Identify historical and contemporary barriers to the equal enjoyment of human rights in Canada and evaluate their effects;
- Describe the rights and freedoms enshrined in Canadian law and explain how they are interpreted, how they may be limited, and how they are enforced in Canada and in Ontario

Criminal Law and Procedures

- Summarize what constitutes a crime or regulatory offence in Canada;
- Describe the processes, legal institutions, and methods involved in bringing a criminal case to trial;
- Explain the structure and role of the Canadian court system in criminal law;
- Analyze the principles of sentencing, including those relating to alternative methods of imposing sanctions or regulating behaviour;
- Explain how the criminal law applies to young people

Regulation and Dispute Resolution

- Distinguish between civil and criminal law;
- Describe the processes, legal institutions, and methods involved in bringing a civil dispute to trial and resolution,
- Explain how the law applies to family matters
- Analyze the role of law as it applies to contractual obligations and claims for compensation for personal injury or loss

Methods of Legal Inquiry

- Use research methods appropriately to gather, organize, and synthesize information;
- evaluate the credibility of sources;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamic nature of law, including the way in which it evolves in response to technology and changes in societal values;
- Explain, discuss, and interpret legal issues, orally and in writing, using a variety of formats

Units:

Unit 1	Heritage
Unit 2	Rights and Freedoms
Unit 3	Criminal Law and Procedures
Unit 4	Regulation and Dispute Resolution
Unit 5	Methods of Legal Inquiry

Teaching Strategies:

Teacher demonstrations	Brainstorming	Small group work
Multimedia	Investigative research	Written assignments
Presentations	Listening	Discussion/ reflection
Debates		

Assessment and Evaluation Strategies

Written Tests	Rubrics
Written assignments	Quizzes
Creative representations	Individual research project/essay
Summative Assignment	Final Examination

Evaluation Summary:

70% of the grade will be based on evaluations conducted throughout the course.

Evaluations are based on the four learning categories:

1. **Knowledge/Understanding:** • 17.5% unit tests, independent research assignment (process), assignments
2. **Thinking/Inquiry** • 17.5% unit tests, independent research assignment (process), assignments
3. **Communication** • 17.5% unit tests, independent research assignment (process), assignments
4. **Application** • 17.5% unit tests, independent research assignment (process), assignments

30% of the final grade in all courses will be based on a final summative evaluation that will be administered at or towards the end of the course.

- **Summative Evaluation:** 10% - Independent research assignment (argumentative essay)
- **Final Examination:** 20% - An examination is a formal test done during the school's official examination period in January. It will address topics examined throughout the course. Unit tests during the course should prepare students for the examination.

References

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/

Student Resources / Texts

The textbook we will be using is All About Law (Fifth Edition). Textbooks will be collected at the end of the course. Damaged or lost texts will be the responsibility of the students. They will be charged the current replacement cost of the book, which is \$92.