

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: INSTRUCTIONAL

Date: SEPTEMBER 1999

**B: Department/
Program Area: CRIMINOLOGY**

New Course

Revision

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: F, M, N, O, P, Q

Date Last Revised: JANUARY 1987

C: CRIM 160

D:

THE CANADIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

E: 3

Subject & Course No.

Descriptive Title

Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description: This course focuses on the history, development, and present day operation of the Canadian legal system. The topics that will be examined include: constitutional law; criminal, contract, and tort law; human rights; administrative law; the court system; the functions of judges and lawyers and the basic elements of legal reasoning.

G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:

Lecture

Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)

Lecture: 4 Hrs.

Number of Weeks per Semester: 14 Weeks

H: Course Prerequisites:

NONE

I. Course Corequisites:

NONE

J. Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

NONE

K. Maximum Class Size:

35

L: PLEASE INDICATE:

Non-Credit

College Credit Non-Transfer

College Credit Transfer:

Requested

Granted

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bccat.bc.ca)

Subject and Course Number

M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Define the major philosophies of law.
2. Identify how the legal system derives its authority and legitimacy.
3. Describe the historical development of Canadian law.
4. Discuss the Canadian Constitution, Canadian legal institutions and the role of judges and lawyers.
5. Describe how law is made and changed.
6. Describe administrative law, tort law, and contract law.
7. Conduct legal research.
8. Discuss the basic elements of legal reasoning.

N: Course Content

The Nature of Law

- ▶ Why we have laws, legal philosophy

Introduction to the Legal System

- ▶ Main divisions of law, how to read and cite cases and statutes, the court structures

Sources of Law

- ▶ Historical sources, legal sources, constitutional sources, the legislative process

British Legal Tradition

- ▶ The Canadian acceptance of this tradition, the basis of our constitutional system, the rule of law, parliamentary sovereignty, common law and equity.

The Constitution

- ▶ BNA Act, Statue of Westminster, The Canada Act, The Constitution Act of 1982, Quebec Legal System.
- ▶ Constitutional change, Meech Lake Accord, Charlottetown Accord, Quebec Referendum, First Nations Treaties

Canadian Legal Institutions

- ▶ The courts, the role of judges and lawyers

The Basic Elements of Legal Reasoning

- ▶ Precedent and Stare Decisis
- ▶ The process of distinguishing
- ▶ Statutory interpretation

Introduction to Administrative Law

- ▶ Tribunals, principles of natural justice and fairness, federal and provincial rule making agencies

The Nature of Tort Law

- ▶ Definition of torts, distinction between tort and crime, categories of torts, the principle of vicarious liability, remedies for tort actions.

Continued....

Subject and Course Number

N. Course Content Cont'd.

The Law of Contract

- ▶ Elements of a contract, remedies for breach of contract

Law Reform

O: Methods of Instruction

The course will employ a number of instructional methods to meet course objectives. These methods include:

1. Lectures
2. Audio-visual material
3. Group work
4. Library research
5. Guest lectures
6. Seminars
7. Presentations

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

The instructor will require students to purchase one of the following texts:

Gall, G. (1995). The Canadian Legal System (4th Ed.). Toronto: Carswell.

Yates, Richard, Yates, Ruth & Bain, Penny. (1999). Introduction to Law in Canada (2nd Ed.). Scarborough: Prentice-Hall

Q: Means of Assessment

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be based on some of the following:

1. Quizzes
2. Mixed format exams (e.g. multiple choice, essay)
3. Term papers
4. Research project
5. Class participation
6. Oral presentations

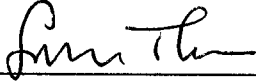
An example of one evaluation scheme would be:

Legal Research Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Subject and Course Number

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

Under review.

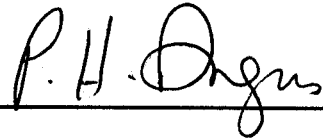


Course Designer(s)



Dean/Director

Education Council/Curriculum Committee
Representative



Registrar