



Text: All About Law 3 rd Ed.	Replacement Value: \$65.00	Assigned Text #: _____
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores legal issues that directly affect students’ lives. To develop an appreciation of the Canadian legal system, students will examine the roots of Canadian law and expand on their understanding of the role of government in making laws. Students will become familiar with the rights and freedoms that all Canadians enjoy as a result of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Students will acquire a practical knowledge of Canada’s legal system, both criminal and civil, and learn how to analyze legal issues. In order to enrich these areas of exploration, students will become more informed through the use of legal research projects, current events, case studies, mock trials and debates.

The entire curriculum document is available from:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/seccurric.html>

UNITS OF STUDY:

Unit 1	<p>Legal Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – explain the meaning and function of law in Canadian society and why all societies need laws. – distinguish between the various divisions of law using legal situations (e.g., substantive/procedural, common/statute, public/private). – assess the contributions to contemporary Canadian law of early legal systems such as the Code of Hammurabi, Mosaic law, Roman law. – describe how English common law, magna carta, precedent, and the rule of law influenced Canadian law. - develop an understanding of precedent through case study analysis.
Unit 2	<p>Rights and Freedoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identify the difference between the Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. – explore the rights and freedoms found in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms through case studies. – analyze situations in which a right or a freedom may be justifiably limited using the reasonable limits clause or taken away using the notwithstanding clause. – draw conclusions on the legacy of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on Canadian society. – explain the protections provided under the Ontario Human Rights Code. – distinguish between the protections offered under the (federal) Charter of Rights and Freedoms and those provided by the Ontario Human Rights Code. –demonstrate the procedures for hearing complaints about human rights violations (the role of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Board of Inquiry) by writing a fictional human rights complaint.

Unit 3	<p>Criminal Law and Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –describe the actus reus and mens rea required for crimes listed in the Canadian Criminal Code. - using current criminal cases found in the newspaper describe the various types of criminal offences(e.g., summary conviction, indictable and hybrid offence). – describe different types of pre-trial procedures including legal arrest, police investigation, and bail. – demonstrate and understanding of the trial procedure through involvement in a mock trial (rules of evidence, court roles, court procedure, jury, burden of proof, and legal defences). – describe the main purposes of sentencing (e.g., punishment, deterrence, society’s protection, reintegration), various sentencing options available, including alternative options, and the role of the victim by taking part in a mock sentencing hearing. – identify controversial aspects of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and outline the arguments on both sides of these controversies,
Unit 4	<p>Civil, Family, and Contract Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – describe the processes, legal institutions, and methods involved in bringing a civil dispute to trial and resolution. – summarize the conventional and alternative procedures involved in bringing a civil action (e.g., statement of claim, statement of defence, examination for discovery) and resolving a civil action (e.g., mediation, arbitration) – describe the types of damages recognized in civil court and the remedies available for enforcing a judgement (e.g.,special, general, nominal, or punitive damages; injunctions). – examine what is an intentional tort and what constitutes negligence in tort law using legal cases. – describe legally acceptable defences and legal remedies to intentional and unintentional torts. – outline the legal requirements of a valid marriage and the process for filing for divorce. – define the elements of a legal contract (e.g., offer and acceptance, consideration).
Unit 5	<p>Course Culminating Activity – Independent Study Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conduct research and evaluate resources on a legal topic by completing a legal research essay. – use an accepted form of documentation (e.g., footnotes, endnotes, bibliographies) to document all information sources by completing a legal research essay. – express opinions, ideas, arguments, and conclusions using proper formal essay format.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION:

Category	Weight
<p>Knowledge/Understanding (KU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment in this category may include but is not limited to tests, quizzes and assignments. 	17.5%
<p>Thinking/Inquiry (TI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment in this category may include but is not limited to research, document analysis, problem solving and critical thinking exercises. 	17.5%
<p>Application/Connections (AC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment in this category may include but is not limited to seminar discussion, essay writing, case studies and assignments. 	17.5%
<p>Communication (CO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment in this category may include but is not limited to oral presentations, homework exercises, speeches, class participation and simulations. 	17.5%
<p>Summative (SU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam (20%) • Course Culminating Project (10%) 	30%