



# COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Name:** The Canadian Legal System

**Course Number:** CRIM 1160

**Number of Credits:** 3.0

**Effective Date:** September 2016

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the history, development and present day operations of the Canadian legal system with special reference to the effects of Canadian Law on Aboriginal Peoples. The course will cover: constitutional law; administrative law; civil liberties; the court system; and, the functions of lawyers and judges. This course overviews the history of Canadian law and the system of the Canadian courts. Throughout this course we will consider the nature of legal reasoning, the doctrine of precedent, principles of statutory interpretation, as well as introduce the fields of contract, torts, administrative law, and family law. The process of law reform in Canada will also be examined.

**School or Centre:**

School of Arts and Science

**Year of Study:**

1st Year Post-secondary

**Course History:**

New Course

**Name of Replacing Course (if applicable):**

**Course Pre-requisites (if applicable):**

Fulfillment of general University Transfer requirements

**Course Co-requisites (if applicable):**

**PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition)**

No  Yes (details below):

**Instructional Strategies:**

Lectures, Class and Group Discussion, Library Research and Field Trips

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. explore different conceptions of the purposes, nature and roles of law in Canadian society, including those expressed about, and by Aboriginal peoples.
2. compare different conceptions on the relationship between morality and ethics, and the law.
3. compare historical and modern sources of Canadian law, and how it is created and changed.
4. describe the process of the establishment of the legal regime in Canada.
5. understand the nature of legal reasoning, the doctrine of precedent, and methods of legal interpretation. To compare these methods of the determination of law to Aboriginal processes for establishing and maintaining social order.
6. identify the purposes, structures and functions of the components of the legal system in Canada.
7. understand the nature of Constitutions and the development of Canada's constitution.
8. explain the implications of important treaties, legislation (especially the Indian Act), statutes, and cases that directly impact Aboriginal peoples.
9. understand the structure and functioning of the Canadian system of courts, and the expertise, authority, roles and duties of lawyers, judges and other legal personnel.
10. describe the purposes, nature and functioning of tort, family, administrative and criminal law.
11. describe the purposes, nature, and functioning of human rights, the Canadian Charter, and the role of international law in Canada and their significance for Aboriginal peoples.
12. apply Canadian law to specific sets of facts and to be able to conduct basic legal research.
13. consider the significance of learned legal constructs on Aboriginal peoples.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

If this course is taken as a requirement or an elective in the following first year, University Transfer Certificate programs, the learning outcomes are found in the relevant Program Content Guides available at the Counseling and Advising Service areas.

University Transfer Arts Certificate

University Transfer Pathway to Health Sciences Certificate University Transfer Science Certificate

University Transfer Physics for Modern Technology Certificate

University Transfer Computing Science and Software Systems Certificate

## Evaluation/Grading System

Grading System	Specify if 'Other':	Specify Passing Grade:
Letter Grades		D

## Components and Weighting of the Assessment/Evaluation Plan:

Type	Percentage	Evaluation Plan (provide a brief explanation for each component especially if value exceeds 35%):
Participation	10	
Field Experience	15	Courtroom observation and written reflection (700 words)
Project	20	20-30 minute oral presentation, including audio-visual support
Project	20	Written summarization of Aboriginal Law presentation (700 words)
Final Exam	30	
Quizzes/Tests	5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## Learning Environment/Type

Instruction Type	Hours Per Instruction Type	Comments
L - Classroom	60	
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

## Resource Material(s):

Resources are items in addition to tuition that the student is responsible for purchasing. Course resource information will be supplied by the department/instructor.

**Course Topics:**

1. Constitutional Law
2. Legal Reasoning, the doctrine of precedent, and principles of statutory interpretation
3. Aboriginal Law
4. Criminal Law
5. Torts of Intention and Negligence
6. Court Orientation and Observation
7. Family Law
8. Administrative Law

## **VCC Education and Education Support Policies**

There are a number of **Education** and **Education Support** policies that govern your educational experience at VCC, please familiarize yourself with them.

The policies are located on the VCC web site at:

<http://www.vcc.ca/about/governance--policies/policies/>

To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at [www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca).

### **FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

<b>Approved by Curriculum Committee:</b>	April 19, 2016	<b>Approved by Education Council:</b>	May 10, 2016
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