

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION 448-4

**LAW IN THE CURRICULUM
(D1.00)**

Summer Session, 1992
(June 29 – August 7)
Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00–4:50 p.m.
Location: MPX 9511

Instructor: Wanda Cassidy
Office: MPX 8667
Phone: 291-4484/4570

"There isn't a single act that any government can do that does not have to find its source in the legal system. It's just as important that our citizens have some appreciation of law as of English, French literature or economics."

Former Chief Justice of Canada, Bora Laskin

PREREQUISITE: 60 hours of credit.

OVERVIEW

This is a methodology course which examines different ways that law (broadly defined) can be taught to elementary and secondary school students. The course is suited for teachers at all grade levels, and is equally applicable for teachers unfamiliar with teaching legal concepts as experienced teachers of law.

OBJECTIVES

Law is an integral part of the school curricula. Legal concepts and skills are found in the new Primary, Intermediate, and Graduation programs, and in courses such as Language Arts, Social Studies, Family Life, Consumer Education, and Law 12. Teachers also convey notions about law through the hidden curriculum of their classrooms — in the way they handle decisions, manage conflict, and structure student activities.

In this course teachers and prospective teachers will examine a number of law-related instructional strategies and develop materials for use in their classrooms. Teachers enrolled in the course will participate in a mock trial or moot appeal to be conducted at the Law Courts. Two other sessions will be held off campus at legal institutions.

SAMPLE TOPICS

1. Rationale for teaching law in the schools
2. Law in the formal and informal curriculum
3. Addressing legal concepts and skills
4. Using the community as a resource
5. Law-related instructional strategies (for e.g. mock trials, moot appeals, case studies, conflict resolution, storydrama)
6. Conducting legal research
7. The law and youth
8. Developing classroom materials

REQUIREMENTS

Report on a community resource, participation in a mock trial or moot appeal, development of a short curriculum unit, a short paper (4 pages) on one aspect of law-related education, attendance and participation in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

A source book of readings, available on the first day of classes: \$20.00 charge

Coombs, et al. (Eds.). (1990). Ends in View: An Analysis of the Goals of Law-Related Education. Vancouver: UBC and SFU.