

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SUMMER SESSION 2007**

**EDUC 448-4
TEACHING ABOUT JUSTICE & LAW
(E01.00)**

Karen Brown
email: knbrown@shaw.ca

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 5:30-9:20 pm
AQ 5039

****PLEASE NOTE** this course will be supported by Web CT**

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours including 6 credits in education

DESCRIPTION

Legal themes and principles are embedded in the school curriculum, from kindergarten to grade 12. Courses such as social studies, language arts, science and consumer education include substantial law content. In addition, students learn about the law through the informal curriculum of the schools – school policies and practices.

Law-related education (LRE) helps students understand the role law plays in society, and the relationship between law and democratic principles e.g. the Rule of Law, citizens' rights and responsibilities, fairness, due process, diversity and equality. LRE also teaches children about those aspects of law that affect their daily lives e.g. family relationships, workplace issues and consumer issues. LRE is also associated with higher order thinking e.g. differentiating information, weighing evidence, making reasoned arguments, justifying a decision (Cassidy 2000); Ferguson 1997; Kuehn, Yates and Mainville 1995).

Course Description

This course is a methodology course, and addresses various ways to teach law in engaging ways throughout the curriculum. Students taking this course should have some background in teaching or curriculum development.

Topics include:

- The purpose and nature of LRE
- Curriculum connections

- Teaching law in engaging ways
- Simulations and role play
- The case study method
- Accessing resources (community, internet, etc.)
- Alternate Dispute Resolution
- The informal curriculum
- Developing classroom resources
- Mock Trials

Requirements

- Resources Investigation -15%
- Field Study Presentation – 15%
- School Board Simulation – 10%
- Mock Trial or Mock Appeal Participation in Courthouse – 20%
- Major Project – 30%
- Attendance Participation – 10%

Readings

- Cassidy, Wanda and Ruth Yates (eds.) *Let's Talk About Law in Elementary School*. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1998 isbn: 1550591568

Cassidy, Wanda and Ruth Yates (2005). *Once Upon a Crime: Using stories, Simulations, and Mock Trials to Explore Justice and Citizenship in Elementary School (Paperback)* ISBN: 155059298X Detselig Enterprises Ltd.
 - Additional student and instructor identified readings to be purchased at the first class for \$40
-