

Law in the Curriculum

Summer Session, 1990
(July 3 - August 10)
Mondays/Wednesdays
5:30 - 9:20 P. M.
Location: MPX 7610

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Just as we recognize that every student has a right to read, so we should recognize that every student has a right to be 'legally literate,' to possess that minimum amount of information needed by citizens to understand how their legal system works and how it can work for them. (D. Schimmel)

PREREQUISITE:

EDUC 401/402, or equivalent of a first teaching practicum, or permission of instructor.

OVERVIEW:

Law-related education in the curriculum is the focus of this methodology course. Students will examine the role of law in the elementary and secondary curriculum and develop ways to implement law-related topics, concepts and skills in their classroom.

OBJECTIVE:

Law, in its broad definition, is an integral part of curricula at all levels of schooling, in particular, in subjects such as Language Arts, Social Studies, Consumer Education and Law 12. Concepts and skills of law are found in the new Primary Program, and will undoubtedly form part of the proposed Intermediate and Graduation Programs. Teachers also teach legal concepts informally through the way they structure their classroom, manage conflict, and address decision-making.

In this course teachers and prospective teachers examine and participate in a number of law-related strategies and develop materials for use in their classroom. The course will benefit teachers at both the elementary and secondary level. It is suited for teachers who are unfamiliar with teaching law as well as those who are more experienced. The course is designed to be interactive and participatory. One class will involve a field study, and one class will be held at the Law Courts.

SAMPLE TOPICS:

1. The importance of teaching law in the schools
2. Law in the curriculum, formal and informal
3. Unit development in law
4. Legal concepts and skills
5. Using the community as a resource
6. Law-related strategies: e.g. mock trials, moot appeals, legal research, case studies
7. Materials review and development

REQUIREMENTS:

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Gallagher, Arlene F. The Methods Book. Law in American Society Foundation. ISBN 0-930102-00-2.

A source book of readings, available on the first day of classes. \$15.00 charge