

EVENING

EDUCATION 448-4

Law in the Curriculum

INTERSESSION, 1995

R. Yates

"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 integrated into various subject areas at the elementary and secondary school levels.

DESCRIPTION

Law is an integral part of the school curricula. Legal concepts, themes and skills are found in the curricula of the Primary and Intermediate programs and in such courses 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 explore law-related instructional strategies, review materials for use in their classrooms, examine community resources, and learn to tailor these ideas to particular students and groups. Students enrolled in the course are expected to participate in two of three off campus classes, including a mock trial held at the law courts, a community field study, and an institutional visit.

SAMPLE TOPICS

- Rationale for and goals of law-related education.
- Law in the formal and informal curriculum.
- Teaching law in specific subject areas using community resources (e.g. social studies, language arts, science).
- Law-related instructional strategies (e.g. mock trials, moot appeals, case studies, story drama).
- The law and youth.
- Developing classroom materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Short report of a classroom observation, participation in a mock trial or moot appeal, evaluation of a resource-based curriculum unit, attendance and participation in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Book of Readings, available for purchase in class for \$35.00.