

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SUMMER SEMESTER 2004**

**EDUC 448-4
LAW IN THE CURRICULUM
(E01.00)**

WANDA CASSIDY

Office: EDB 8667

Phone: 291-4484

E-mail: cassidy@sfu.ca

TUESDAYS

17:30-21:20 in EDB 8651/2

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours

DESCRIPTION

Legal themes and principles are embedded in the school curriculum, from kindergarten to grade 12. Courses such as social studies, language arts, science, consumer education and CAPP 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—for e.g., the rule of law, citizens' rights and responsibilities, fairness, due process, diversity, equality. LRE also teaches children about those aspects of law that affect their daily lives (for e.g., family relationships, workplace issues, consumer issues). LRE is also associated with higher order thinking; for e.g., differentiating information, weighing evidence, making reasoned arguments, justifying a decision (Cassidy, 2000; Ferguson, 1997, Kuehn, Yates, & 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 law-related education
- curriculum connections
- teaching law in engaging ways
- simulations, role, play and story drama
- the case study method
- accessing resources (community, internet, etc.)
- alternate dispute resolution
- the informal curriculum
- developing classroom resources

Requirements

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Requirements

- double entry journal based on the readings & selected classroom activities (15%)
- individual and group presentation on rationale for law-related education (10%)
- report and poster based on a community-based resource (15%)
- participation in mock trial or moot appeal (held at court house) (20%)
- development of a curriculum resource to use in the classroom (30%)
- attendance and participation in class (for each day missed students will lose 2% of their mark; if students miss more than 3 classes they will be asked to withdraw from the course) (10%)

Required Readings

Cassidy, W. & Yates, R. (Eds.) (1998). Let's talk about law in the elementary school. Calgary: Detselig Publishers.

Selected chapters from Cassidy, W. & Yates, R. (in press). Storybook Mock Trials, and other readings. (available in class; professor will collect \$30 the first day of class.)

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