



EDUCATION 487-4

SPECIAL TOPICS: LAW FOR THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

Fall Semester, 1985  
Thursdays, 5:00-8:50 p.m.

Instructor: Wanda Cassidy  
Location: Rm. 8651 MPX

*"The individual, in order to effectively function within our society, requires a basic understanding of the law . . . (Moreover) the rule of law will not function as the cornerstone of our society unless our citizens understand the role of law in society and know and respect the right and obligations which it confers."*

(John Finley, The National, Fall 1981)

Course Purpose:

In the past three years, Law has gained greater prominence in the B.C. curriculum. The purpose of this course is to provide teachers with a basic understanding of the law, its processes and role, so that they might be better prepared to teach legal topics and concepts in the classroom.

Eligibility:

Legal concepts and topics can be taught throughout the elementary school curriculum as well as through more obvious secondary school courses such as Social Studies, English, Consumer Education and Law 11. Teachers or prospective teachers of all grade levels, experienced or inexperienced in teaching law, are encouraged to enroll. Minimum requirement is Educ. 401/2 or the equivalent of a first teaching practicum or permission from the instructor.

Course Content:

Course content will include:

- I Legal Process - defining law and determining its role; legal authority, the Constitution and Charter; the judicial system; using cases and statutes; legal skills.
- II Legal Topics - an introduction to criminal; family; constitutional; labour; contracts; and property law, each covered from a different perspective.

Members of the legal profession will participate as guest speakers in the course. Participating activities such as mock trials, field studies, debates will also occur.

Requirements:

Attendance, weekly readings and participation in session activities; a class report; one short legal skills assignment; one (2 pg.) topical paper; one (6 pg.) paper applying knowledge of one area of law to the classroom setting.

Texts:

Gerald Gall, The Canadian Legal System, (2nd edition), 1983)  
Sourcebook of readings provided in class at minimal cost.