

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION 448

LAW IN THE CURRICULUM

Summer Session, 1991
(July 2 - August 9)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Location: MPX 7504

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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 primary, intermediate and graduation programs and develop ways to implement law-related 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, Intermediate, and Graduation Programs. Teachers also teach legal concepts informally through the way they structure their classrooms, 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 is of benefit to teachers at all levels of the curriculum. It is suited for teachers who are unfamiliar with teaching legal concepts 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. Strategies: e.g. mock trials, moot appeals, legal research, case studies, conflict to solution
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, a short paper (4 pages) on one aspect of law-related education, attendance and participation in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

A source book of readings, available on the first day of classes: \$20.00 charge

Coombs, et al. (Eds.). (1990). Ends in View: An Analysis of the Goals of Law-Related Education. Vancouver: UBC and SFU.