

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
St. Patrick High School
Course Information Sheet



COURSE TITLE: Understanding Canadian Law

GRADE: 11

CODE: CLU3M

YEAR:

CREDIT VALUE: 1.0

PREREQUISITES: none

TEACHER:

Course Description:

This course explores legal issues that directly affect students' lives. To develop an appreciation of the Canadian legal system, students examine the historical roots of Canadian law and expand their understanding of the role of government in making laws. Students also become familiar with the rights and freedoms that all Canadians enjoy as a result of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Students acquire a practical knowledge of Canada's legal system, both criminal and civil, and learn how to analyze legal issues. They are given opportunities to develop informed opinions on legal issues and to defend those opinions and communicate legal knowledge in a variety of ways and settings, including research projects, mock trials and debates.

How This Course Supports The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

One of the strongest themes found in the teachings of the Catholic Church concerns social justice. This theme refers to a number of issues raised in this course. The respect for human rights includes the respect for individual rights, Aboriginal rights labour rights, feminist rights, and cultural group rights. The teachings of Christ concerning the need for community are reflected in Canada's constant struggle to define that community. This course presents students with historic issues faced by Canadians and interprets them in light of the gospel teachings. Students recognize that there are certain gospel values such as social justice values that transcend history and are still relevant for the future.

Course Resources and Materials

Text: Law in Action

Unit Titles

Unit #1: Heritage: Explain and analyse the history of laws and describe the different categories of law

Unit #2: Rights and Freedoms: Describe the rights and freedoms enshrined in Canadian Law and explain their interpretation, limits and how they may be enforced.

Unit #3: Criminal Law and Procedures: Describe the processes, legal institutions and methods involved in bringing a criminal case to trial and resolving it.

Unit #4: Regulations and Dispute Resolution: Analyse the role of law as it applies to contractual obligations and claims for compensation for personal injury or loss.

Work Ethics and Learning Skills/Attitudes

It is expected that students will demonstrate the following learning skills:

- Works Independently
- Teamwork
- Organization
- Work Habits
- Initiative

These learning skills are evaluated using a four point scale (**E** – Excellent, **G** – Good, **S** – Satisfactory, **N** – Needs Improvement). Learning skills will be included on the report card but not reflected in the mark.

For successful life long learning, learning skills are an integral part of all learning and are aligned with the Conference Board of Canada – Employability Skills.

Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning

Student achievement of the learning expectations will be evaluated according to the following breakdowns. The percentage balances of achievement chart categories are derived from the approximate proportion of expectations that fit within each category.

CATEGORY	DETAILS	WEIGHT %
TERM (Assignments, Tests, Projects)		70 %
FINAL EVALUATION (Exam and Independent Study)		30 %
	TOTAL	100 %

Evaluating Student Learning Using the Achievement Chart

The achievement chart provides a reference point for all assessment practice and a framework within which to assess and evaluate student achievement.

Percentage Grade Range	Achievement Level	Summary Description
80 – 100%	Level 4	A very high to outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is above the provincial standard.
70 – 79%	Level 3	A high level of achievement. Achievement is at the provincial standard.
60 – 69%	Level 2	A moderate level of achievement. Achievement is below, but approaching, the provincial standard.
50 – 59%	Level 1	A passable level of achievement. Achievement is below the provincial standard.
Below 50%		Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations. A credit will not be granted.

Communication

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to constantly monitor student progress throughout the semester. Parents/guardians are always welcome to contact the teacher at the school if they are concerned about student progress. Student achievement will be formally communicated to parents at mid-term and at the end of the semester with the Provincial Report Card. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their achievement and to approach their teacher if they require extra help.