
CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

School of Business - Marketing and Management Studies

Course Number: LAW2205	Contribution to Program: General Education Mandated	Educators: John Ebbs Karen Cunningham John McEnery
Applicable Programs: Two year Business Marketing	AAL: 3	Approval Date: January 2008
Course Hours: Delivered: 60 Normative: 60 Hybrid Course: 30 hours in class 30 hours online	Prerequisites: None	Approved By: Peter Fortura Title: Acting Chair
	Corequisites: None	Approved for Academic Year: 2007-2008

School of Business Web Site: <http://www.algonquincollege.com/business/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with a more profound and balanced understanding of contemporary political and legal issues in Canadian society by reviewing them in their historical, national and international contexts.

Students will learn how and why the country of Canada was created and organized as a federal system. They will proceed to learn how and why its various branches of government and public institutions have evolved to what they are today. With this knowledge and perspective, students will then review particular areas of interest including: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its interpretation by the courts; general Canadian human rights issues; Canada's response to contentious criminal law issues including capital punishment, euthanasia, pornography, gun control and terrorism; Canadian immigration policy; personal information privacy issues; Canada's relationship with the United States; Canada's role at the United Nations and its relationships with other countries of the world; federal- provincial relations and the future of Canada both in terms of how it can remain one country and how it can successfully meet the global challenges of the twenty first century.

RELATIONSHIP TO PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

<p><i>This is a general education course that supports learning in the following goal areas:</i></p>	<p><i>This course contributes to your program by helping you to achieve the following provincial generic skills standards.</i></p>
<p>Major Theme: 2- Civic Life: Acquire a working knowledge of critical legal and political issues in Canada.</p>	<p>1. Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>8. Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>11. Take responsibility for one’s own actions, decisions, and consequences.</p>

COURSE CURRICULUM

1. Course Learning Requirements/Embedded Knowledge and Skills

<i>Course Learning Requirements</i>	<i>Knowledge and Skills</i>
<p><i>To earn credit for this course, you must reliably demonstrate your ability to:</i></p>	
<p>Clearly explain the historical and present day relationship between laws, ethics and justice and how these concepts are applied during the conduct of interpersonal interaction</p>	<p>You will acquire knowledge of the origins and importance of laws and the legal and political systems in Canada and be able to compare these systems with other systems in the world.</p>
<p>Access and accurately interpret laws related to typical problems which occur during the conduct of business and interpersonal interaction. Included in this analysis is the political context in which these laws exist.</p>	<p>You will acquire knowledge of various areas of Canadian law, including criminal law, business laws, privacy laws, Charter of Rights and Freedoms. You will acquire knowledge of the Canadian political system.</p>
<p>Make presentations (oral and written) which address different perspectives on legal and political issues</p>	<p>You will illustrate your knowledge by developing written and oral presentation skills that are designed for the presentation of legal information</p>
<p>Analyze typical and evolving legal and political issues in Canada and draw conclusions regarding their outcome. Track</p>	<p>You will learn how to apply knowledge of the various areas of Canadian law and politics to real world fact situations in order to understand</p>

any shift in your thinking about the issues and provide reasons for any changes in your view.	and accurately address these situations from a legal and political perspective
Defend the position you have taken regarding a legal and political issues during a debate or discussion. In doing so, cite relevant law, and its application to the facts.	You will learn and apply specific strategies necessary to debate a difference of opinion regarding a legal and political issues
Assess and incorporate constructive feedback to analyze and amend (if necessary) your position on a business law issue.	You will acquire knowledge of how the legal and political systems in Canada interact.

2. Learning Resources

THERE IS NO TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE. ALL READING MATERIAL WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD OR ACCESSED THROUGH THE INTERNET.

3. Teaching/Learning Methods

Lectures; discussions (both in class and online); reading; research; debates

4. Learning Activities and Assessment

Write short essays; monitor media coverage of course content; engage in discussions; hold formal and informal debates; examine cases and provide written and oral interpretation; link course content to current events and to personal experience; make presentations.

The hybrid nature of this course requires that students conduct one half of their learning activities outside of the classroom environment. This will require research and online activities in a variety of forms. These activities are not included in the student’s regular reading requirements for the course but are in addition to them.

5. Evaluation/Earning Credit

In class quizzes based on course reading material and research(4 X 10%)	40%
Online Assignments consisting of discussion board activities (1 X 10%)	10%
In class debates (2 X 10%)	20%
Final exam (comprehensive & delivered during exam period)	30%

A numeric evaluation will be assigned for all course work. However, please be aware that from time to time, *a number of required in-class tasks and activities must be completed and will not necessarily receive a numeric mark or letter grade.* These assignments are viewed as an important and integral piece of the learning puzzle and required to successfully complete this course.

Class participation requires the student to attend class, actively contribute to in-class discussions, oral question periods, and in-class presentations, and completion of in-class tasks and assignments. This includes a written assignment on self-assessment, portfolio, and group work, due dates to be determined.

The final evaluation is communicated to you in a letter grade format by the Registrar's Office.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism will be dealt with firmly, starting with a mark of zero for the assignment and proceeding to the full disciplinary actions as outlined in Algonquin College policies. For further information, refer to the Student Instaguide or get a copy of the official policy statements from the Student Association (Directive E16).

6. *Prior Learning Assessment*

Students who wish to apply for prior learning assessment (PLA) need to demonstrate competency at a post-secondary level in all of the course learning requirements outlined above. The method of demonstration (a portfolio) will be established by faculty and the PLA Coordinator. Please consult the General Education Coordinator in your school and/or the PLA Coordinator if you feel you are a candidate for PLA.

RELATED INFORMATION

Students With Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability, please identify your needs to the professor and/or the Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) so that support services can be arranged for you. You can do this by making an appointment at the CSD, Room C142, Ext. 7683 or arranging a personal interview with the professor to discuss your needs.

Harassment/Discrimination/Violence Policy:

Harassment, discrimination and violence will not be tolerated. Any form of harassment (sexual, racial, gender- or disability-related), discrimination (direct or indirect), or violence, whether towards a professor or amongst students, will not be tolerated on the college premises. Action taken will start with a formal warning and proceed to the full disciplinary actions as outlined in Algonquin College policy. For further information, refer to the Student Instaguide or get a copy of the official policy statements from the Student Association (Directive A8).

Software Copyright:

In the past few years the Copyright Act has been updated to cover computer software. If the police lay charges against someone infringing copyright, the maximum penalties for a summary conviction are "a fine not exceeding twenty five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both". The maximum penalties for an indictable conviction are "a fine not exceeding one million dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to both".

Making a copy of a software package for your own use other than a backup copy of a package that you have purchased allowed in your licence agreement would make you liable for the above penalties.

Course Assessment:

It is Algonquin College's policy to give students the opportunity to complete a course assessment survey in each course that they take which solicits their views regarding the curriculum, the professor and the facilities.

Students, it is your responsibility to retain course outlines for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

Course Content - Tentative Schedule

- Part One:** Introduction to the Canadian Legal and Political Systems (Weeks 1 & 2)
- Part Two:** Federal-Provincial Relations (Past, Present And Future) (Week 3)
- Part Three:** The Canadian Political Process and its Interaction with the Legal Framework of Canada (Week 4)
- Part Four:** The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Canadian & Ontario Human Rights Legislation (Weeks 5 & 6)
- DEBATES** Formal in Class Debates on Course Material and Discussion Board Topics (week 7)
- Part Five:** Criminal Law Issues and the Canadian Perspective on Contentious Criminal Law Issues (Weeks 8 & 9)
- Part Six:** Personal Privacy Issues and Canada's Response. (Weeks 10 & 11)
- DEBATES** Formal in Class Debates of Course Material (Week 12)
- Part Eight:** Canada And The United States: A Comparative Analysis of Our Legal and Political Frameworks and How the Two Countries Interact (Weeks 13 & 14)

THE FINAL WEEK OF THE SEMESTER WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM TO BE HELD DURING THE EXAM WEEK. IF STUDENTS HAVE ANY ISSUES OR CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THIS OUTLINE, THEY ARE ADVISED TO DISCUSS THEM IMMEDIATELY WITH THE PROFESSOR