



CRIM-135 – Introduction to Canadian Law

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2025-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course is a general introduction to the principles of jurisprudence and the legal institutions of Canada. Students will study: Canada's legal systems; the various ways law is made and organized; different explanations and perspectives of law; and its history and role in Canadian society. Students will learn basic concepts in public and private law, including constitutional, family, criminal, and tort law and will also learn basic techniques of legal reasoning and research.

Program Information:

This course is required in the Criminal and Social Justice Diploma Program and can be used as an elective in University Studies programs as well as other programs. Refer to the College program guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Hybrid – On-campus (Face-to-Face) and Online, Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Boyd, N., (2019). *Canadian Law: An Introduction* (7th ed.). Scarborough, ON.: Nelson Education. ISBN: 9780176724429

Joseph, B., (2018). *21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act: Helping Canadians make*

reconciliation with Indigenous peoples a reality. Page Two Books Inc. ISBN: 9780995266520

Additional readings made available online.

Electronic versions of this textbook are available through the Publisher.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks..

Learning Outcomes:

- discuss the various contexts (social, historical, economic, political) within which Canadian law and legal systems have developed;
- explain the fundamental principles of jurisprudence;
- identify the basic legal institutions in Canada;
- explain the roles and responsibilities of various professionals of the legal system;
- assess how the concept of law affects decision-making at various levels of the legislative, judicial, and administrative systems;
- evaluate the Canadian constitutional framework and its impact on legal systems;
- recall key concepts in substantive areas of law;
- identify Indigenous title and rights within law;
- prepare and participate in a mock trial;
- conduct a case briefing; and
- complete case study analyses.

Course Topics:

- Unit 1 – The Role and Origin of Law
 - Purpose and Perspectives on Law in Canada
 - Sources of Law
 - Rules & Principles of Law
- Unit 2 – Basic Elements of the Canadian Legal System
 - History of Canadian Legal System
 - Constitution of Canada, *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
 - Canada's Court System
 - Roles and Responsibilities of Legal Professionals
- Unit 3 – Substantive Law: Torts, Contract, Family, Administrative and Criminal
 - Tort Law
 - Family Law
 - Administrative Law

- Criminal Law

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Assignments (15% each)	30%
Final Assignment	20%
Class participation (including small assignments, discussion participation)	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.