



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 1993
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2025
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): August 2030
 Course outline form version: 28/10/2022

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: CRIM 135	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)										
Course Full Title: Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions Course Short Title: Intro Cdn Law & Legal Inst											
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	Department (or program if no department): CRIM										
Calendar Description: Examines the Canadian legal system in preparation for law-related courses. Topics include the origins and role of Canadian, Aboriginal, and Indigenous law, systems of courts, the legal profession, legal reasoning and statutory interpretation, and private and public substantive law.											
Prerequisites (or NONE):	9 university-level credits.										
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Antirequisite Courses (<i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i>) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36										
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	Lecture/seminar	45							Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.
Lecture/seminar	45										
Total hours	45										
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca .) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>										
Department approval	Date of meeting: April 16, 2024										
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: May 31, 2024										
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: August 29, 2024										

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the purpose of law and sources of Canadian law, including the many historical, cultural, and other influences that have shaped Canadian law and legal institutions.
2. Discuss the nature of legal reasoning, including the doctrine of precedent and varying and competing principles of statutory interpretation.
3. Describe the basic building blocks of Canada's legal system, especially its constitutional framework and the system of Canadian courts.
4. Outline the roles and responsibilities of members of the legal profession.
5. Explain the fields of private (civil and family) law and public (administrative and criminal) law.
6. Compare and contrast Indigenous law, Aboriginal law, and Canadian law.
7. Critique the process of law reform in Canada and the essentials of international law.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting (*Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.*)

Assignments:	40%	Quizzes/tests:	25%	Final exam:	35%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments may include case briefs, term papers, or presentations.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods (*Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.*)

Lectures, class discussion, group work, guest speakers.

Texts and Resource Materials (*Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*)

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Boyd, N.	Canadian Law: An Introduction / Nelson	2019
2. Online resource	Gunn, K., & O'Neil, C.	Indigenous Law and Canadian Courts	2021
3. OER book	Shawush, N.	Decolonization and Law	2022
4.			
5.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials (*Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.*)

N/A

Course Content and Topics

- Introduction to Canadian law and legal institutions
- The role of law
- Sources of law
- Legal interpretation
- The foundations of Canada's legal system
- The legal profession
- Tort law
- Family law
- Administrative law
- Criminal law
- Indigenous law
- Law reform and/or international law