

# Course Outline

School Name: KEEWAYTINOOK INTERNET HIGH SCHOOL

Department Name: Canadian and World Studies

Ministry of Education Course Title: *Canadian and International Law*

Grade Level: 12

Ministry Course Code: *CLN4U*

Teacher's Name: Melissa Black

Developed by: Melissa Black

Date: September 2015

Revision Date:

Developed from: The Ontario Curriculum, Grade 11 and 12, Canadian and World Studies, 2015

Profile Name: None

Text: None

Prerequisite: Any university of university/college preparation course in Canadian and world studies, English, or social sciences and humanities.

Credits: One

Length: 110 hours

Principal's Name: Kevin Dempsey

Principal's Approval (signature)



Approval Date: September 18, 2015

## ***Course Description/rationale***

This course explores a range of contemporary legal issues and how they are addressed in both Canadian and international law. Students will develop an understanding of the principles of Canadian and international law and of issues related to human rights and freedoms, conflict resolution, and criminal, environmental, and workplace law, both in Canada and internationally. Students will apply the concepts of legal thinking and the legal studies inquiry process, and will develop legal reasoning skills, when investigating these and other issues in both Canadian and international contexts.

## ***Overall Curriculum Expectations***

### **A. THE INQUIRY PROCESS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN LEGAL STUDIES**

- use the legal studies inquiry process and the concepts of legal thinking when investigating legal issues in Canada and around the world, and issues relating to international law
- apply in everyday contexts skills developed through the study of law, and identify careers in which a background in law might be an asset

### **B. LEGAL FOUNDATIONS**

- identify foundational concepts and principles relating to law and explain their significance
- analyse how and to what extent various legal theories and procedures have influenced the Canadian and international legal system
- explain various influences, including those of individuals and groups, on the development of Canadian and international law

### **C. RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

- explain the principles underpinning human rights law and the legal significance of those laws, in Canada and internationally
- analyse issues associated with the development of human rights law, in Canada and internationally
- compare the roles of the legislative and judicial branches of government in protecting human rights and freedoms, with a particular emphasis on Canada
- analyse various contemporary issues in relation to their impact or potential impact on human rights law

### **D. FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- explain the legal importance of various key principles and issues in international law
- analyse how various factors have influenced the development of international law
- analyse how various agreements, treaties, and conventions in international law influence international conflict and cooperation

### **E. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ISSUES**

- analyse various key concepts, legal systems, and issues in criminal law, in Canada and internationally
- analyse factors that influence the effectiveness of domestic and international environmental legislation
- analyse legal principles, systems, and processes used to protect various parties' interests in the workplace, in Canada and internationally
- analyse emerging global issues and their implications for international law

## ***Course Content***

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Length</b>
<b>1. The Foundations of Law</b>	<b>32 hr</b>
<b>2. Human Rights in Canada</b>	<b>24 hr</b>
<b>3. Foundations of International Law</b>	<b>24 hr</b>
<b>4. International Legal Issues</b>	<b>31 hr</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>110 hours</b>

# *Unit Descriptions*

## **Unit 1: The Foundations of Law**

Students demonstrate their understanding of the historical and philosophical origins of law and legal ways of thinking: legal significance, interrelationships, continuity and change, and legal perspective. They also demonstrate an understanding of the connection and relevance of the historical and philosophical origins of law to contemporary society. Different concepts, principles, philosophers, and theories of law are evaluated. Students demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between law and societal values. They assess the influence of individual and collective actions on the evolution of the law. Students learn how modern history has influenced and shaped the law makers in Canada. Students demonstrate an understanding of the legal structure in present day Canada and its roots in British common law and French Napoleonic code. Students are introduced to criminal theories of what constitutes a criminal act (*actus reus* and *mens rea*) in Canada historically as well as in the present. Students prepare a fictional account detailing criminal justice procedure from criminal act to release from jail including arrest and trial procedures.

## **Unit 2: Human Rights in Canada**

Students demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of human rights legislation in Canada and explain the development of Canadian constitutional law. In their examination of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, students develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. They explain the roles of the legislature and the judiciary in defining, interpreting, and enforcing Charter rights in Canada. Finally, students analyse the conflicts between rights and freedoms and between minority and majority rights in a democratic society and they describe the methods available to resolve these conflicts. Miscarriages of justice are evaluated with special attention given to First Nations victims of injustice

## **Unit 3: Foundations of International Law**

Students are introduced to the major concepts in International Law and an examination of the changes, roles, and challenges facing organizations. Students evaluate effectiveness of international law in resolving conflict, especially armed conflict

## **Unit 4: International Legal Issues**

Conflict and dispute regulation are introduced to students as they explore historical incidences in Canada and internationally relating specifically to the workforce. Modern challenges to dispute regulation within the workplace, but especially in regards to environmental protection and legal policies dealing with the environment are considered..

# *Teaching/Learning Strategies*

The teaching strategies used in this outline are designed to give students opportunities to develop language and communication skills that relate to their life beyond the classroom. The teacher facilitates learning by having students involved in a variety of whole class, small group and individual activities, as summarized below. The teacher also continually assists students to make the connections between what they do in the classroom and the world beyond the classroom.

The lessons are set up in a way to provide individual assignments that enable students to extend and consolidate the learning that takes place in the whole class and small group activities. The teacher also outlines student responsibilities for organization, note-taking, reflection, and self-assessment that follow from the whole class and small group activities, including the completion of tasks as homework. These activities are directly related to skills and concepts required in the legal field and university setting. The teacher plays an important role in supporting these activities through the provision of ongoing feedback to students, both written and oral. Students are encouraged to improve on all work by revising and editing completed assignments so they may earn higher marks.

Students complete critical-thinking skills to develop background knowledge, use criteria for judgement and building a legal vocabulary. Students are taught to not only think critically, but present their work in a fashion that stands up to the critical thinking of others. Activities in this course designed to meet the above goals including writing projects, reading assignments, lectures, movies, on-line research activities, PowerPoint presentations, multi-media presentations.

Other strategies used to assist students in development of language and literacy include reading text and charts analytically and critically for information; using diagrams, charts and graphic organizers for communication, using the internet to develop research skills specifically the selection of reputable and reliable legal sources.

Due to the almost wholly Oji-Cree and Ojibway demographic from which students are drawn, an emphasis is placed in this course on introducing material relevant to Nishnawbe-Aski-Nation territory such as NAN Restorative Justice as well as role models and issues from other First Nations such as Donald Marshall Jr. or an exploration into the higher incidences of First Nations in the penal population.

## Evaluation

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- Seventy per cent of the grade will be based on evaluation conducted throughout the course. This portion of the grade should reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration should be given to more recent evidence of achievement.
- Thirty per cent of the grade will be based on a final evaluation administered at or towards the end of the course. This evaluation will be based on evidence from one or a combination of the following: an examination, a performance, an essay, and/or another method of evaluation suitable to the course content. The final evaluation allows the student an opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive achievement of the overall expectations for the course.

*Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools.* Ontario Ministry of Education Publication, 2010 p.41

Type of Assessment	Category	Details	Weighting %
Term Work (70%)	Knowledge/ Understanding	-fill in a chart showing historical methods and systems of adjudication -give the full name and purpose of international organizations from their acronyms -provide definitions of terminology specific to unions	13%
	Thinking/ Inquiry	-prepare mind maps showing relationships within the primary and secondary law fields -develop further potential areas of study to determine cause behind high rates of incarceration of First Nations peoples -compare and contrast union and non-union workplaces	19%
	Communication	-create a legal vocabulary flash card set -prepare a case brief -create a presentation suitable for a grade 8 course	19%
	Application	- formulate an opinion and then explain if the presumption of innocence is a reality in Canada -evaluate the effectiveness of international law to deal with legal issues	19%

Final Assessment (30%)	Culminating Activity	Students write a formal report in MLA format from a list of teacher generated topics or, with permission, their own topic. Successful papers must incorporate various areas from previous units of study such as the historical thinking behind the legal issue and opposing points of view both in Canada and Internationally. Students are expected to include evidence of the four legal ways of thinking, legal significance, interrelationships, continuity and change, and legal perspective.	K/U	3%
			T/I	4%
			C	4%
			A	4%
	Final Exam	The exam draws from all units of study and is out of 100 marks. 10 marks for matching and ordering, 10 marks for fill-in-the-blank, 40 marks for short answer questions (no choice) and 40 marks for two essay questions (one each from two sets of three choices)	K/U	3%
			T/I	4%
			C	4%
			A	4%
			TOTAL	100%

## *Assessment/Evaluation Strategies*

Specific assessment tasks incorporating written, oral, and performance activities in this course include multi-media presentations, research reports, case briefs, completion of forms, working from templates to produce products in unfamiliar formats, summary, flash cards, worksheets, charts/graphs, summary paragraphs, essays, persuasive paragraphs, posters, formal proposal writing.

These assessment tasks are integrated with the learning strategies for each activity.

The culminating activity for the course builds on the concepts and skills developed in the individual units. There is an emphasis in this course on preparation for the academic world. Using exemplars, and scaffolded activities, students are guided towards completing a formal essay style report in MLA format. This allows students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the key elements of this course.

## *Resources*

*Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools*. Ontario Ministry of Education Publication, 2010

Aboriginal Document Portal <http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/aboriginaldocs/index.html>

Canadian Legal Information Institute <http://canlii.org>

History of Law <http://www.historyoflaw.info/>

Information Exchange Network for Mutual Assistance in criminal Matters and Extradition <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/index.html>

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12, Canadian and World Studies, 2015, (Revised) <https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/canworld.html>

Timeline of World Legal History <http://www.duhaime.org/LawMuseum/LawArticle-44/Duhaimes-Timetable-of-World-Legal-History.aspx>

## ***Program Planning***

This course is offered to students living in isolated northern Ontario communities which do not have access to regular high school facilities, equipment, places of worship, or teachers associated with secondary education. This course uses the internet for instruction, demonstration and research. It utilizes a student centered semi-virtual classroom which capitalizes on the strengths of internet program delivery to minimize the disadvantages of geographic remoteness.

Students are presented with instruction/activity via the internet. All lessons, assignments, questions and course material is presented in this manner, with approved print materials available as a student resources in each classroom. The student and instructor communicate via the internet, while a classroom mentor (a fully qualified teacher) assists students in completing tasks in a timely manner and provides tutoring as required.