**Law Studies 12: Understanding Canadian Law**

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**INTRODUCTION**: Welcome! Law Studies 12 is a survey course that introduces students to the concept of law and the role that it plays in society.  The course is generally divided into the following four sections: foundations of law, criminal law, civil law, and family law.

**The "Big Ideas"**

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| **Understanding legal rights and responsibilities that allow citizens to participate more fully in society.** | **Laws can maintain the status quo and also be utilized as a force for change.** | **A society's laws and legal framework affect many aspects of daily life.** | **Laws are interpreted, and that interpretations may evolve over time as a society's values and worldview change.** |

Law Studies 12 provides students with an opportunity to develop a sense of cooperation and curiosity, as well as providing all students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to consider their role in society now, and in the future .Furthermore, students will be provided with opportunities to explore areas of personal interest that are connected to this course.

Students will:

* Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions.
* Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems or codes.
* Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence.
* Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems or codes across jurisdictions.
* Assess the development and impact of legal systems or codes.
* Explain and infer multiple perspectives on legal systems or codes.
* Make reasoned ethical judgments about legal systems or codes, controversial issues, decisions, legislation, or policy.

**GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**: Upon completion of Law 12, students will demonstrate an understanding of...

* the role that law plays in regulating our lives and the institutions that create and enforce the law.
* why society criminalizes certain behaviors, what constitutes a crime, and how society deals with criminal behavior.
* tort law and criminal law - areas of law that regulate the conduct of individuals and organizations in relation to one another, and the standards of conduct established in those areas of civil law.
* the nature and purpose of laws related to the family, including marriage, common-law relationships, family breakdown, and the care and protection of children.

**KEY ELEMENTS OF LAW 12**

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| Foundations of Law* Purpose and Function of Law
* Sources and foundations of law
* Evolution of Canada's legal system
* Structure of the Canadian court system
* Rights and freedoms of Canadians
 | Criminal Law* Criminality
* Elements of the criminal act
* Criminal Code of Canada
* Criminal Trial Procedure
* Principles of Sentencing
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| Civil Law* Principles of tort law and contract law
* Elements of tort law and contract law
* Remedies of tort law and contract law
* Negligence and international torts
* Process and remedies of contractual disputes
 | Family Law* Marriage law
* Federal and provincial powers
* Evolution of the legal family unit
* Dissolution of marriage
* Maintenance and division of assets
* Protection and safety
* Custody and support
* Protection of children's rights
* Cultural, social, and economic factors in family law
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**TEXTBOOK/LEARNING RESOURCES**: A variety or resources will be utilized in this course, including…

* [*Law in Action* (2nd Edition)](http://www.pearsoned.ca/school/lawinaction2/) by Blair, Costiniuk, Moles, O'Malley, & Wasserman
* [*All About Law* (5th Edition)](http://business.nelson.com/0176201483/default.html) by Gibson, Murphy, Jarman, & Grant
* Internet - various
* Other media - various (newspapers, movies, TV, magazines)

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES**: The learning activities in Law 12 are as varied as the content.  Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, including but not limited to...

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| * short-answer/ worksheet activities
* individual & group activities
* presentations & discussions
* research and case studies
* projects
 | * field trips
* paragraph and report writing
* tests & quizzes
* peer/self assessments
* other activities
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**LEARNING ASSESSMENT:** Each student has the ability to be successful in this course. In most cases, success is simply a choice and involves a sincere effort. Active engagement in the learning process is crucial. Student work in Law 12 is evaluated on an on-going basis. Students will be evaluated on their written work (including citing sources), enterprise and enthusiasm for research and investigation, as well as from the demonstration of knowledge on exit tickets, quizzes and tests.

Formal assessment of student learning will be based on the following:

* Classwork (see table above for examples) =  70%
* Daily active engagement, discussions, participation, and observation activities = 30% (Please note: these will not be replicated for individuals with an unexcused absence.)

**CLASSROOM SKILLS and TEACHER EXPECTATIONS:** Both critical thinking and content knowledge will be woven together in all units of study. Emphasis will be on strengthening reasoning and troubleshooting skills. Students will be encouraged to think critically, to accept and understand, compare and contrast, and weigh the pros and cons of various points of view, and contribute maturely and appropriately to classroom discussions. Furthermore, it will be expected that students maturely regulate their cell phone use, or they will be required to leave it elsewhere. Expectations can be summed up the following way-

**Be prepared. Be respectful. Be responsible. Be kind. Have fun!**