



BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Education Graduate Studies & Field Research

**01:758 / School Administration and the Law
Regular Session / 2014/2015 / Term 2**

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Course Description:

This course is designed to inform graduate students of the legal context in which education in Canada finds itself. As the legal responsibilities and roles of those in education become more complex in today's school environment, it is imperative that educators acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of the legal parameters affecting education today. This course will examine the impact of common, statutory, and case law on education and schools. An exploration of the legal context of school administration will provide an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and employers.

Course Objectives:

- To develop an awareness of Canadian and provincial laws and statutes that regulate the practice of education;
- To examine issues found in education today that involve the application of law;
- To explore legal cases that serve to inform the educator's professional practice;
- To discuss strategies and behaviours that may help to avoid legal issues in today's educational environment.

Required Texts & References:

- Government of Canada – *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- Province of Manitoba – *The Public Schools Act*

Course Assignments (APA version 6.0 required):

➤ Case Study Presentation (30%)

Each student will be required to present and review one case study during a twenty-minute slot in class. This presentation should allow for examination and discussion of the case (20%). The presentation should include:

- Nature of the problem
- Terms of reference
- Legal status
- Critical assessment
- Implications for education

A five-page (double spaced, A.P.A., 12 pt. font) summary of the case studies will be submitted following the class presentation (10%).

➤ Statute Overview (30%)

Students will be expected to overview and comment on an education-related statute or act in a scheduled fifteen-minute period. The overview will highlight the key components of the act, a critical analysis of the act, and its implications for the field. The statute will then be posted on Moodle.

➤ Major Paper (40%)

Students will be expected to develop a major paper on an education-law related topic. The paper should not exceed ten pages (double spaced, A.P.A., 12 pt. font). Papers are expected to be well conceptualized and follow a theme developed in the course. The topic should be discussed with the instructor prior to beginning the paper. The paper should include:

- an introduction to the topic
- an overview of related literature, legislation, case law and personal experiences
- a critical assessment
- implications for education
- **APA version 6.0 required**

Course Grade Evaluation:

-Assignments & Due dates (optional):

-Minimum grade requirement for graduate program: B

-Grade Equivalencies:	A+	96-100	B-	70-74
	A	90-95	C+	65-69
	A-	85-89	C	60-64
	B+	80-84	D	50-59
	B	75-79	F	Under 50%

Academic dishonesty will cancel out all the calculations above and result in a final grade of F-AD (Fail-Academic Dishonesty)
(refer to the Graduate Calendar, section 5.3.2)

Instructor / Course Evaluation:

All graduate course evaluations will be completed on-line. All students are expected to complete the evaluation. Dates of the evaluation will be communicated by the instructor through the Graduate Studies Office. All course evaluations are anonymous, and will be handled in strictest confidence by the Graduate Studies Office, in coordination with the Dean's office.

Proposed Class Schedule:

January 5	Introduction Law & Education
12	<i>Constitutional Basis of Law; Charter of Rights</i> Related Sources of Educational Law Court Structures
19	Tort Law
26	School Governance School Boards and Education Law
February 2	School Operations and Education Law
9	In Loco Parentis
23	Teachers as Employees
March 2	Teachers as Social Welfare Agents
9	Students and the Law <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>
16	Future Issues in Education Law

Attendance at Lectures and Practical Work:

(refer to the Graduate Calendar, section 5.3.1)

1. All students are expected to be regular in their attendance at lectures and labs. While attendance *per se* will not be considered in assessing the final grade, it should be noted that in some courses participation in class activities may be required.
2. For limited enrolment courses, students who are registered but do not attend the first three classes or notify the instructor that they intend to attend, may have their registration cancelled in favour of someone else wishing to register for the course.
3. Students who are unable to attend a scheduled instruction period because of illness, disability, or domestic affliction should inform the instructor concerned as soon as possible.
4. Instructors may excuse absences for good and sufficient reasons.

