

Canadian and International Law, Grade 12

University Preparation

CLN4U

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.

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

OVERVIEW

The course has five strands. Instruction and learning related to the expectations in strand A are to be interwoven with instruction and learning related to expectations from the other four strands. Strand A must not be seen as independent of the other strands. Student achievement of the expectations in strand A is to be assessed and evaluated *throughout* the course.

Strand A

A. The Inquiry Process and Skill Development in Legal Studies
Overall Expectations
A1. The Inquiry Process 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
A2. Developing Transferable Skills: apply in everyday contexts skills developed through the study of law, and identify careers in which a background in law might be an asset

(continued)

Overview *(continued)*

Throughout this course, when planning instruction, teachers should weave the expectations from strand A in with the expectations from strands B–E.

Strands B–E

Overall Expectations and Related Concepts of Legal Thinking	Big Ideas*	Framing Questions*
B. Legal Foundations		
B1. Principles of Law: identify foundational concepts and principles relating to law and explain their significance (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance</i>)	Law is based on principles derived from beliefs about how a just society should function.	What are some key influences on the development of law?
B2. Legal Theory and Procedures: analyse how and to what extent various legal theories and procedures have influenced the Canadian and international legal systems (FOCUS ON: <i>Interrelationships; Legal Perspective</i>)	Law changes over time in response to a variety of factors, including social values, technological advances, and political trends.	How do beliefs in Canadian society about the rule of law, democracy, and an independent judiciary influence the legislative process?
B3. Development of Law: explain various influences, including those of individuals and groups, on the development of Canadian and international law (FOCUS ON: <i>Continuity and Change</i>)	Laws are socially constructed – that is, individuals, groups, and governments influence the development of law.	What is the difference between domestic and international law? How do different types of law affect you in your everyday life? Who has the power to make and influence legal decisions?
C. Rights and Freedoms		
C1. Legal Principles of Human Rights Law: explain the principles underpinning human rights law and the legal significance of those laws, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance</i>)	The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms reflects Canadian human rights principles.	What are human rights? Are they the same in all countries?
C2. Development of Human Rights Law: analyse issues associated with the development of human rights law, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: <i>Continuity and Change</i>)	The belief in the protection and promotion of human rights in Canada and the world has developed gradually through the efforts of individuals and groups.	How does the law balance competing human rights? What are some barriers to the achievement of human rights?
C3. Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms: compare the roles of the legislative and judicial branches of government in protecting human rights and freedoms, with a particular emphasis on Canada (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance; Interrelationships; Legal Perspective</i>)	Different branches of government work alongside each other in developing, interpreting, and enforcing human rights legislation.	Do the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and international conventions effectively protect people's rights?
C4. Contemporary Issues: analyse various contemporary issues in relation to their impact or potential impact on human rights law (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Perspective</i>)	Human rights are sometimes limited and/or threatened in Canada and around the world.	How can we use the law to respond to rights abuses?

* See page 17 for a discussion of the purpose of big ideas and framing questions.

Overall Expectations and Related Concepts of Legal Thinking	Big Ideas*	Framing Questions*
D. Foundations of International Law and Dispute Resolution		
D1. Fundamentals of International Law: explain the legal importance of various key principles and issues in international law (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance</i>)	Different legal principles are sometimes in competition in international law.	Can there ever be a good reason for a nation to refuse to sign a particular international agreement?
D2. Development of International Law: analyse how various factors have influenced the development of international law (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance; Continuity and Change</i>)	Changes in international law reflect ideological and social shifts, historical events, political agendas, economic realities, and current priorities.	What is the role of the United Nations in developing international cooperation? Is Canada a good global citizen in terms of international laws?
D3. Conflict and Cooperation: analyse how various agreements, treaties, and conventions in international law influence international conflict and cooperation (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance; Interrelationships; Legal Perspective</i>)	International agreements can limit the freedom of action of states. Many international agreements are intended to promote stability in international relations.	Should international protocols be enforced?
E. International Legal Issues		
E1. Criminal Law: analyse various concepts, legal systems, and issues in criminal law, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance; Interrelationships; Legal Perspective</i>)	International criminal law is designed to prevent serious atrocities and to prosecute individuals who have committed such atrocities, including war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.	Why is the International Criminal Court important? How effective are international agreements and conventions? Do international laws effectively protect nature?
E2. Environmental Protection: analyse factors that influence the effectiveness of domestic and international environmental legislation (FOCUS ON: <i>Continuity and Change; Legal Perspective</i>)	Influential states lobby for or against international environmental legislation, depending on their beliefs and interests.	Do laws related to the workplace benefit workers, company owners, or both?
E3. Workplace Legal Issues: analyse legal principles, systems, and processes used to protect various parties' interests in the workplace, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Significance; Interrelationships</i>)	Employment law attempts to balance the rights of business owners and workers.	
E4. Emerging Legal Issues: analyse emerging global issues and their implications for international law (FOCUS ON: <i>Legal Perspective</i>)	There can be both advantages and disadvantages for countries participating in international agreements.	