

Grade 12 Law (40S)

A Course for
Independent Study

GRADE 12 LAW (40S)

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Independent Study*

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Introduction

Welcome to *Grade 12 Law (40S): A Course for Independent Study*. Grade 12 Law provides you with an introduction to the legal systems, as well as the principles, practices, and consequences of law with regards to torts, contracts, crimes, property rights, family, and inheritance. We will also take a look at an Aboriginal view of law in Manitoba. While the course provides some background to business situations, many topics deal with circumstances found in private life.

Course Structure

This course is composed of four modules. Each module is divided into sections that include several lessons.

Learning Activities and Keys

Most lessons end with a written learning activity. Answer keys follow each learning activity. **Do not send in these learning activities.** These learning activities and their keys are designed for self-testing and correction. Keep your learning activities together in your **Notebook**.

Assessment

This is a breakdown of how you will be assessed in this course.

There are two examinations, a midterm and a final. You will write the midterm after completing Modules 1 and 2, and you will write the final examination following Modules 3 and 4.

Midterm Examination — 15%

Final Examination — 15%

Journal Entries — 30%

Module Assignments — 30%

Year-End Media Watch Project — 10%

Journal Entries

There are a number of journal entries in each module. Combined, the journal articles will be worth a total of 30 percent of your final mark for this course. The journal allows you to think through issues and record your thoughts and feelings. As you progress through each module, you will find numbered journal questions. Try to answer them in as much detail as you can. Generally, answers should be **at least one to two pages (200–300 words)**.

Some criteria for an acceptable journal are:

- completeness
- organization
- neatness (if the tutor/marker is unable to read your work it will be sent back to you and will not be evaluated)
- answers that demonstrate reflection and analysis
- application of information to your life (where applicable)
- personal opinions and ideas
- ideas or opinions (fully developed)
- answers beyond information presented in lesson

Do not send individual journal articles to your tutor/marker. When you have completed a module, complete that module's Cover Sheet (included at the end of this introduction), and send it in to your tutor/marker along with:

1. **all of the journal articles**
2. **the module assignment for that module**

Mail these to:

Law 40S Tutor/Marker
Independent Study Option
555 Main St.
Winkler, MB
R6W 1C4

When you have completed **Module 4**, you will also have to send in your **Year-End Media Watch Project**.

Module Assignments

There are hand-in assignments in each module that you will submit for evaluation. These are to be sent in with your journals at the end of each module. They are worth a total of 30 percent of the course's final grade.

Year-End Media Watch Project

Your Year-End Media Watch Project is worth 10 percent of the final grade for the course. This assignment will help you apply and transfer your knowledge into "real world" situations. It is designed to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of law in Canada through different forms of media.

It is important that you work on this project as you work your way through this course so that it does not become a large burden at the end. If you are unable to do any of this project for any reason, then please contact your tutor/marker so that you can arrange an alternative.

1. Using **original** (no photocopies) newspaper articles:
 - a) Collect three to five articles on the different areas of law that you study throughout the course:
 - i. Criminal
 - ii. Family
 - iii. Civil
 - iv. Rights and Freedoms
 - v. Torts
 - vi. Contracts
 - b) Clip these articles and highlight the important legal information in them with a highlighter marker.
 - c) Organize these articles according to the type of law that they apply to and place them into a scrapbook (use tape or glue).
 - d) Provide a title page for each type of law.
 - e) Be sure to add the source and date of your articles.

2. Case Study

- a) Follow a case in the newspaper as close as you can. Highlight all relevant information about the case in the articles.
- b) In the end, you should have at least four to five articles or other forms of information about your particular case. Also, ask anyone you know if they know of any information about the case and include any information that you can.
- c) Write a one-page (250-word) report on your case and the legal issues involved with it.
- d) Be sure to add the source and date of your articles.

3. Television

- a) Another part of this project will be for you to watch two hours of television and write a report on what you watched. This could include:
 - i. A documentary
 - ii. A movie that is related to law
 - iii. A television show
- b) Summarize what you watched in the show(s) and write an essay (250 to 500 words) on the legal concepts shown or demonstrated in the show(s)
- c) Be sure to add information such as:
 - i. Date shown
 - ii. Channel
 - iii. Time
 - iv. Producer
 - v. Length

Remember, all **Journal Entries**, **Module Assignments**, and the **Year-End Media Watch Project** must be submitted to your tutor/marker for you to complete this course.

Notebook

You should have a notebook (separate from your journal) in which to answer the learning activity questions that appear throughout each module. This notebook is not to be sent in for marks, but is meant to assist your learning. All information is useful for project completion. You can gain more knowledge from this course if you make an honest attempt to complete all work outlined.

Scheduling

We really want you to succeed in this course. In order for you to do so, you need a total of at least six months (three months for each half of the course) in order to succeed. Please leave yourself at least three months between the midterm and final examinations.

Suggested Timelines

If you have registered for this course in September and would like to complete it by June, here is a suggested timeline that you can follow. If you fall behind this timeline, you may find that you will not have the time to complete the work in time.

Module 1	Journals and projects	October 15*
Module 2	Journals and projects	January 15*
Midterm Exam		January 30
Module 3	Journals and projects	March 10*
Module 4	Journals and projects	April 20*
Year-End Media Watch Project		May 15
Final Exam		May 30

If you need this course to graduate, please make sure that you have everything submitted by May 30 so that there is time for your school to receive your final marks.

* Please submit all of your journals and projects for the entire module at one time.

Twelve Suggestions for Writing Essays and Journal Entries

Here are some suggestions that may help you write your essays and journals.

1. **Brainstorm.** Write down all of the ideas that you can think of that relate to the topic. Don't think too hard about the ideas for now. Just write them down. Don't be afraid to ask someone to help you. Brainstorming often works better when there are plenty of people involved. We encourage you to have a study partner. This is someone in the community (parent, teacher, et cetera) who would like to help you with your course. Your learning partner will respond to your work and help you to stay on track. The most important characteristic for a study partner is that he or she is a person with whom you would enjoy working.
2. **Organize related ideas into clusters.** Later, you will develop each of these clusters into a paragraph. Get rid of ideas that are unnecessary or are duplicates of other ideas.
3. **Give a title to each of these clusters.** List the related ideas under each title. You have just constructed an outline that shows the main idea and related ideas for each of the paragraphs you will be writing.
4. **Make sentences out of the title and related ideas to turn each cluster of ideas into a paragraph.**
5. **Write a topic sentence for each paragraph based on the title.** This is the first sentence of the paragraph, which introduces the ideas in the paragraph.
6. **Put each of the paragraphs in order.**
7. **Develop a connecting sentence for each paragraph.** This sentence goes at the end of the paragraph and connects that paragraph to the next one.
8. **Write an introductory paragraph.** This is the first paragraph of the essay. It is short and describes what the essay is about.

9. Edit your essay. Eliminate any of the words or sentences that are not directly related to the topic. Make sure that the essay is easy to understand and the ideas flow easily.
10. Have someone else read your essay. Ask them if they would suggest any changes. They probably will.
11. Check your grammar, spelling, and the mechanics of the essay.
12. Reread your essay and keep on making improvements. Remember that all good writers rewrite their works several times.

Required Resources

The following resources are included with the Grade 12 Law course package.

- *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- *Family Law in Manitoba 20__* (new publication every several years)

Disclaimer

The material provided in this course is intended as general legal information only and not as legal advice. It is believed to be current and accurate as of the date of publication. However, changes in law are frequent, and as every situation is unique and involves individual legal issues, the reader should not rely upon it to solve actual legal disputes or problems. The reader should consult his or her own legal council to deal with any actual legal problems.

Some of the content in this course may be sensitive for some students and/or their parents, families, or communities. This content includes sexuality, diversity of family types, child abuse, sexual assault, family violence, and divorce. If you have any concerns about this content, please contact the Independent Study Option at 1-800-465-9915.

Guide Graphics

Graphics have been placed inside the margins of the course to identify a specific task. Each graphic has a specific purpose to guide you. The significance of each graphic is described below:



Journal Entry: This icon indicates a journal entry assignment that you will submit to your tutor/marker at the completion of that module.



Learning Activity: This icon indicates a learning activity that will help you prepare for your examinations.



Exam Time: This icon directs you to make arrangements to write a midterm or final examination.



Mail to Tutor/Marker: This icon directs you to mail a module assignment package to your tutor/marker.



Note: This icon alerts you to important material.

Section 1

Nature of Law

Introduction

This section is made up of Lessons 1, 2, and 3. At the end of this section, as well as every other section, there is an assignment that you will have to send to your tutor/marker. This section will give you an understanding of what law is, why we have laws, how and why laws change. This section will also introduce important legal terms and principles.

Completing this section will help you to:

- define law and evaluate its purposes in society
- demonstrate an understanding of legal principles
- describe how and why laws change and the consequences of such changes on society

Section 1, Lesson 1

Defining Law

Law can be defined as the rules that are made and enforced by the government to regulate the conduct of members of our society. It plays a major role in the manner in which society functions. Canada's laws are an interesting blend of ancient traditions and modern ideas.

From penalties for piracy to the rights of minors, the legal system covers every aspect of our lives and even dictates what happens to our belongings after we die. It's a thorough system, but not a rigid one. Our laws continually change in response to our changing social values. In the first section of Grade 12 Law, we'll take a look at why we have laws and how laws change.

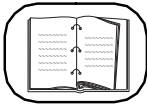
What Is Law?

How would you define the word “law”? A common way that the word is defined is “. . . a rule to govern action; rules of conduct, established by government, for society to follow and obey.” If your definition made the point that laws consist of rules to govern our behaviour, you had the right general idea. Why do we have laws?

Right and Wrong

Where do we get our ideas about right and wrong? For example, why is it illegal to murder another person? Or why is it illegal to be married to two people at the same time? These actions are illegal in Canada because of our social values. Every society has actions that people generally believe are correct and other actions that are unacceptable. These social values are shaped by two things: tradition and changing ideas.

An old law in Winnipeg declares that you may be fined for kissing a woman on the street. That was obviously based on the morals of the time that law was passed. You may feel that abortion is immoral. However, in Canada, abortion is no longer a crime. Some people believe that women should have the right to make their own decisions on such matters. Over time, the law changed. As you can easily see, people’s ideas of right and wrong differ. Thus, there will be times when people disagree with what should and shouldn’t be regulated by law. There will also be times when law changes because of society’s changing beliefs.



Journal Entry 1

You will be sending this journal entry (and all the other journal entries in this module) to your tutor/marker. Wait until you have completed all of the journal articles and the Module Assignment before sending them to your tutor/marker.

Almost everything we do is affected by the law in some way. The following is a list of everyday things. Your job is to write these things down in your **journal** (Journal Entry 1) and show that there are laws that govern them.

1. Driving your car
2. Watching TV
3. Eating at a restaurant
4. Reading the newspaper
5. Crossing the street
6. Recreational fishing

If you do a thorough job, you will likely find there are not many things that you can do that are not affected by the law in some way. For example, you might say that the law has nothing to do with breathing, but there are laws that regulate the quality of the air people breathe and laws that determine whether an individual who is attached to a life-support breathing machine has the right to have that machine turned off.

Now take the learning activity a little further and try hard to think of three things that are not affected by law in any way. If you try really hard, you should be able to come up with a few. Write down three and don't forget to **justify** why you put them there.

Be sure that you support your responses in well-detailed paragraphs. The entire entry should be at least 100 words long.

If you need help writing your journal article, refer to the **Twelve Suggestions for Writing** on page 6 of the Introduction.

Notes





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