

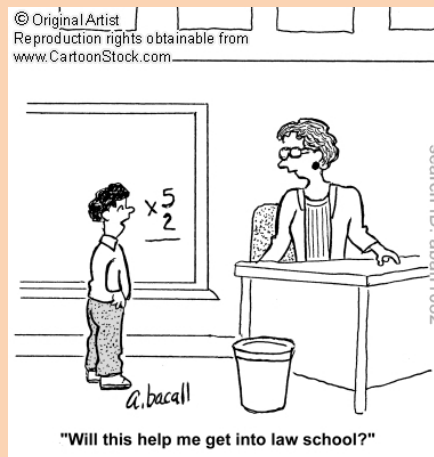
LAW AND EDUCATION

CLASS ACTIVITIES*

INTRODUCTION

Discussion questions:

- Do you want to go to Law School? Why? Why not? If so, what steps have you taken to prepare for admission? What else can you do? How can I support you? What could Algoma University do to help you gain access to Law School? If not, what are your plans? Are you applying to graduate school? Have you started the admissions process? What is it like?
- Read Yasmin Jaswal's article entitled "[Canada's grad students: overeducated, underemployed](#)". What do you think of the lack of meaningful career opportunities for graduates of professional programs? Do you think the situation is better for BA or BSc graduates? Who is responsible? What can you do to improve your employability?
- What is your opinion about Law School tuition? What does it mean to owe several tens of thousands of dollars in loans? How do you think you can pay your debt off?
- Would you like to explore legal careers that do not require a Law School degree in this course? If so, what professions/career paths would you like to consider? What steps can you take to start preparing for that career?
- Analyze the cartoon:



LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

- Have you applied to Law School? Discuss your experience so far.
- Are you planning to apply to Law School? Discuss your fears, if any, and main challenges.
- Why are there so few Canadian Law Schools? (18 Common Law schools)
- What would you change about admission to Law Schools in Canada?
- Do you think it is important to have a B.A. or B.Sc. before starting Law School?
- Would you implement mandatory affirmative action programs for admission into Law School and/or other graduate programs?

Admissions scenarios

Suppose you are the head of the Law School Admissions Committee. Follow the admissions policy in, at least, three Law Schools. What is your decision regarding admissions for each candidate in each of the selected Law Schools?

1) Alejandro Elhauge is a successful Chilean lawyer who holds a law degree from the University of Santiago. His cumulative law degree academic record was 74%, a quite high record at a Chilean university. While practicing law in his own private firm, he published two articles in a local law journal. He obtained a 550 on the TOEFL test (English as a foreign language test). He has taken the LSAT and scored in the 84th percentile. He attributes his relatively low TOEFL and LSAT scores to the fact that he has never taken a multiple choice test before as these tests are frowned upon by Chilean professors, who prefer other forms of evaluations, such as writing papers, or participating in oral debates, and presentations. TOEFL and LSAT exams are offered only once a year in Chile so he cannot retake them. His personal essay is rather weak. He is not

used to writing personal statements as a way of gaining admission to school. He'd thought the essay would be used for social purposes so he wrote about his music and film preferences.

2) Nicolai Edvardov, a Russian sociologist, has a candidate degree –similar to the North American Ph.D.- in sociology and is working toward his second doctoral degree in Russia. Seeing that it will be very difficult for him to make a living in Russia, he wants to practice Law in North America. He did his undergraduate education in Sociology during Soviet times. As he was a dissident and frequently voiced his opposition to the Soviet regime in class, his cumulative undergraduate academic record was 54%. He did his doctoral studies after the fall of the Soviet Union, and he excelled in his education. In Russia, you do not take a prescribed set of courses at the doctoral level. You mainly work on your thesis and assist professors in their research, so there is no GPA for doctoral students. His thesis was excellent and is considered one of the best sociological works on oppression of minorities in Russia. It is being reviewed for publication. His colleagues consider Nicolai to be a star and a very promising scholar. However, since Russian professors are not used to writing letters of recommendations, his letters do not reflect his potential. Nicolai explained all this in his personal admissions essay.

He scored 575 in the TOEFL and scored in the 85th percentile in the LSAT. He attributes his relatively low scores to the fact that his English is a bit weak, as he started to study English while a doctoral student.

3) George is a student from Algoma University's Law and Justice program. He took legal courses mostly from part-time faculty, i.e., retired judges, practicing attorneys, and prosecutors. Other teachers had master's degrees, but no one had a Ph.D. His letters of recommendations are from a practicing attorney and a retired judge. They both say that George is a very good student, that knows a lot about Criminal Law, Contracts, Constitutional Law, and Torts. They even mentioned that George starred in a moot court.

John is a student from Algoma University's Anthropology program. He only took one course from the Law and Justice program. His letters of recommendations were written from full-time faculty with doctoral degrees. They both emphasize that George is a very good student, that he has very good research skills as evidenced by John's thesis and written assignments in the

course. They mention that John has very good oral presentation skills as evidenced by several presentations John did in their classes. They also say that John has an ability to understand theory, and to communicate his ideas in writing. They also mention that John has developed a very good understanding of worldwide cultures as a result of his passion for Anthropology.

Both George and John have the same GPA and the same LSAT score. You have only one spot left. Which student, if any, will the Law School admissions committee admit?

4) Ashley MacDonald is a good –but not outstanding– student at Laurentian University. Her undergraduate academic record is 84% and her LSAT score is in the 94 percentile. She has not been involved in many extracurricular activities; and her goal has always been to be a teacher. But her parents insisted that she study law. Her letters of recommendations are strong, but her personal essay is not very powerful.

5) Elle Wood has a 4.0 GPA in fashion merchandising from CULA, a California College of dubious academic reputation. She is a social queen and chief blonde of her sorority. She got a 179 on her LSAT. One of her most significant extracurricular activities is growing up across the street from Aaron Spelling (creator of *Dynasty* and *90210*).

6) Shirley is an Algoma University student. She is doing a double major in Law and Justice and Sociology. Her LSAT score and GPA is the minimum required by the Law Schools she wants to apply to. You are a full-time teacher at Algoma. She comes to you for advice. What will you tell her?

7) Miriam O'Hara is an excellent Sociology student at Dalhousie University. Her undergraduate academic record is 87%, and her LSAT score is in the 98 percentile. Her list of extracurricular activities is impressive, and her letters of recommendation are very powerful. She wrote a very strong personal essay.

8) David is a first-year Algoma University student. He is majoring in Law and Justice. You are a full-time faculty in the program. He comes to you in early September, and tells you that he wants to go to Law School when he finishes his studies at Algoma University. What do you recommend him?

9) Elizabeth has a double major in Political Science and Anthropology from St. Mary's University in Halifax. Her GPA is 72. Elizabeth is a very strong student. Her GPA is relatively low because doing a double major is very hard at St. Mary's. Veronica is doing a single major in Political Science at St. Mary's. Her GPA is 78. Both Veronica and Elizabeth have the same LSAT score and a similar background. There is only one spot left. Which student, if any, will the Law School admissions committee admit?

10) Ron has majored in Economics at UofT. His GPA is 82 and scored in the 75th percentile in the LSAT. He has average recommendations and a personal essay.

**GPA Conversion Chart:
(from Princeton review)**

4.0	95-100	A
3.9	94	A
3.8	93	A
3.7	92	A
3.6	91	A
3.5	90	A
3.4	89	B
3.3	88	B
3.2	87	B
3.1	86	B
3.0	85	B
2.9	84	B
2.8	83	B
2.7	82	B
2.6	81	B
2.5	80	B
2.4	79	C
2.3	78	C

2.2	77	C
2.1	76	C
2.0	75	C
1.9	74	C
1.8	73	C
1.7	72	C
1.6	71	C
1.5	70	C

Scaled Score	Percentile Rank
180	99.9%
179	99.9%
178	99.9%
177	99.8%
176	99.6%
175	99.4%
174	99.2%
173	99.0%
172	98.6%
171	98.0%
170	97.4%
169	96.7%
168	95.9%
167	94.6%
166	93.2%
165	92.0%
164	90.0%
163	88.1%
162	85.9%
161	83.4%
160	80.4%
159	77.6%
158	74.6%
157	70.9%
156	67.4%
155	63.9%
154	59.7%
153	55.6%
152	52.2%
151	48.1%
150	44.3%
149	40.3%

148	36.3%
147	33.0%
146	29.5%
145	26.1%
144	22.9%
143	20.5%
142	17.8%
141	15.2%
140	13.4%
139	11.4%
138	9.6%
137	8.1%
136	6.7%
135	5.6%
134	4.7%
133	3.7%
132	3.2%
131	2.5%
130	2.0%
129	1.7%
128	1.3%
127	1.0%
126	0.8%
125	0.7%
124	0.5%
123	0.4%
122	0.4%
121	0.3%
120	0.0%

ADMISSIONS ESSAY

Identify the problems and improve the following personal admissions essays

<p>Personal Statement (from a male double major student)</p> <p>My name is Ricky Thomas and I have not always enjoyed school. I started my life excelling in elementary school but never found it challenging or thought provoking. High school was the same,. I found most concepts easy to grasp and for somebody with attention deficit</p>
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disorder like myself, this led me to disinterest and a lack of focus. I was never apathetic about my life itself, I simply lacked direction. The beginning of my undergraduate career was similar, I was an English major who wanted to write and create and I was too stubborn to understand why I needed to read Chaucer to tell a story about popular culture. Alas my first year was not a success.

During my first summer though, I discovered something that would change my educational philosophy from tentative to passionate. I got a job with a Real Estate firm in town! Around half a year after I started, I was promoted to Junior Law Clerk. The workload is now pretty intensive, but I'm managing for the most part and I'm excited to develop my legal and negotiating skills.

At school I took a Criminal Law class with retired Judge John Doe who ignited my passion for justice and equal rights. Judge Doe spoke extensively about topics such as denial of aboriginal rights, the history behind our constitution, and the fiercely important moral debates that surround our legal system. Since then, I changed my major from English to Law. I took a number of classes in Private Law, Labour Law, and Environmental Law. I apply what I learn at school in my job and at the same time I apply my experience as a Law Clerk in school. I started to develop a serious appreciation for law. Law has developed from a field of general scholarly interest to an area of intense passion and serious scholarly interest for me over the last two years. It is the chief occupant in my thoughts, and I cannot imagine a career in any other field. My friends have to stop me amid rants about legal thought, morality and justice. My family cannot believe what they are seeing: the young man who didn't care about school cannot stop discussing the fruits of it.

The more I learn about law and imperfections I found within the legal system, the more I think law can be a great field in which to make a difference.

I think my work ethic and passion for education make me an excellent candidate for continued education at Law School. Please consider my application.

Personal Statement

(from a mature, male, Eastern European Law and Justice student)

Law has been my number one fascination. Business people make decisions based on the

advice they gain from lawyers, doctors operate having followed a legal system and Educators teach about the law, but lawyers practice it. The law is one thing that will keep evolving, and I want to be at the center of that evolution advocating the rights of Native people.

I am a mature person and an achiever, in my college years I started running a renovation company that is currently working out well. This sets me apart from all other applicants in this course. In my business, I observe the law and feel that given a chance to practice it I would still achieve greatly.

I have been reading books by Arthur Conan Doyle, Dale Carnegie and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. These books have had broad influence in making me improve my understanding of the life, human relationship and law. I have also been attending court cases and using the books to research on the live events. The thrill has influenced me to want to be at the center of it all.

In my undergraduate, I was more mature than my classmates were, and this made them respect me as I was always accommodative in giving the best advice.

I initially got interested in law prior to attending university; I would go to the court once a week. It was so wonderful to see gentlemen and ladies present arguments then back them up with book quotations and past cases; some would be shrewd and others tough. Then the judge would deliver a judgment based on facts and their arguments. Sometimes I felt I would do better than these members of the council. In college, my debating arguments were always at par; this made me realize that, it is my vocation to become a member of the legal counsel.

Besides the law, I am also fascinated by the American culture especially about the Native Americans. In college, I enjoyed the Native Indian courses such as Aboriginal Treaty Rights course and Native Culture. I also felt at home interacting with Native American professors and students. Being a first generation immigrant from Eastern Europe, I had little knowledge of Native American culture, which I got from the movies. The tragedy of Native American people throughout the History of conquest inspired me to becoming a Native People advocate and master in Aboriginal Law.

With the experience and the positive enthusiasm, I believe and feel I deserve to join the graduate school since I know I will make an impact as an advocate for native people.

Personal statement

(female student, Law and Justice major)

Feminism has completely changed the way I see myself and others. I believed that I was an open-minded liberal before entering university, but I was wrong. Before taking a sociology class, I never realized how the severity of certain actions and seemingly harmless comments continue to oppress people, including myself. Now, I see the world differently. I realize that many people disagree with my opinion, especially because of the negative connotation that feminism has gained, but I am open to perspectives that allow me to overthink my position and consequently, make my arguments more persuasive.

I aspire to have a role in the landmark decision that allows for equal opportunities in education and the workforce despite differences in gender, sex, race, ethnicity, and backgrounds. Society has advanced through the waves of feminism, but I want to be a part of the continuing movement with knowledge in the legal field because I believe that change starts in the legal system. As Canadian history shows, the vital alterations that have been made in legislation have started in courtrooms. I want to study cases that have had a fundamental impact in the way that people perceive and relate to one another in society. Understanding constitutional law is essential in the context of attaining social justice because the goal of human rights is to make sure that everyone is treated equally so that they can have a good standard of living. If we study society by using the constitution and the entrenched Charter as the framework, we can progress to ensure that everyone can exercise their rights while supporting diversity and multiculturalism.

When studying law, I believe that it is important to be familiar with all areas because it is unlikely that a case is entirely separated into one category. Different aspects of law overlap one another; thus, it is difficult to provide a thorough analysis of a subject if there is only extensive knowledge in one area. I think that acquiring knowledge in torts, contracts, property, administrative, constitutional, criminal, and labour law among others are not only thought-provoking in themselves but also contribute to curiosity in all subject areas.

I also believe that studying law teaches the different perspectives that people have in terms of what their definition is of justice and the process to attain it. One of the many factors that encourage my curiosity in the legal field is how judges reach a verdict within their own form of reasoning. There are some viewpoints that I have become aware of during my political science and law and justice studies, but I know that there is much to learn. It is remarkable to see how political science and law are sometimes intertwined even though they are supposed to be theoretically separated. An idea may sound absurd at first, but if one studies the process and

understands how a person may have come to a certain conclusion, it will likely appear to be a logical claim. Not only does this allow one to learn of different viewpoints, but it also strengthens opposing argument.

I think that the work done outside the classroom is just as important as the discussions that happen inside the classroom. One of the best ways for me to learn the material is to see how it works in practice. Even when I leave class, my mind often wonders back to what the professor said and the interesting perspectives of my peers. If I am able to continue my thoughts and use them in real situations, I know that I can bring new ideas to the classroom that can make me a better student. Over the course of my university career, everything I thought was a concrete reality was questioned. I am hoping that that law school will continue to do the same.

Personal statement

(Male student, Major in a Social Science discipline, minor in Law and Justice)

Dear Admission Committee of Lakehead University Faculty of Law

Studying law is not simply a career goal I wish to reach, but rather a field of study which inspires me to positively change the lives of others. Following the completion of law school I would like to work as an attorney in Northern Ontario, which is where I am from.

My first year of University Studies was a challenge to me, and my marks show that improvement. My marks from my third year, are substantially better than my first year, showing over 80 percent in my classes, I achieved this while working part time, volunteering in the community, and even running a small business with two partners. My ability to adapt and excel in any environment allowed me to live up to the high standards of leadership, organisation and work ethic. The ability to adjust to new experiences and roles is a trait which I possess, and I feel is successful for law students.

My part time employment while studying at Algoma University required me to maintain organisation and order within my work and my studies. I work at a store, which is owned and operated by my family. Although many see it as easy employment, it is the contrary. I have received two promotions since working there. I worked very diligently to compete for both promotions. My current position of inventory manager requires me to maintain strict organisation within all the stores in our chain. Inventory is a crucial aspect in a business in

Northern Ontario, due to high operating costs; my job is to make sure we have enough inventories to provide to our customers, while making sure we do not have too much overstock.

In my years at high school, it was crucial to complete the mandatory volunteer hours in order to graduate, however I felt it was important to continue my work in the community. I volunteered for XX society.

Our business which we have created is a small contracting company in Sault Ste. Marie. Our motto is to offer professional building services to the people in Sault Ste. Marie for fair prices. We noticed a niche in the city's market, which was that people could not get work done for a low price, so we decided to jump on that niche in the market and start business. We have been successful thus far, and our customers have been extremely happy both with our prices and our work. We felt that it was necessary provide a service especially to those who are less fortunate and could not afford and regular contracting company to come and fix a problem in their home.

My overall grades show that my work ethic and drive to succeed are always increasing. They show that I can become a successful law student. Thank you for your consideration.

Personal statement (male Law and Justice major)

When thinking back to determine the exact cause of what made me want to attend law school and practice law as a professional many experiences come to mind. I have always maintained a strong desire to debate with other individuals in the academic world and have grown to love the system which governs us as a society. The first experience which brought me into the legal world was the O.J Simpson trial, this proved to be an extraordinary experience as I would spend the next 10 years working to get into university and now applying to law school. While in high school I took law classes but was very confused as to what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Once I started my new journey at Algoma University I instantly knew I wanted to practice law one day. I now have an opportunity to turn these dreams into a reality. I constantly attend trials in my hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, I love to sit through hours of court listening and observing the language and behavior of lawyers, judges and other persons of the court. I see myself representing individuals in court and putting numerous extra hours preparing for cases

and doing other activities which will help me to succeed in the legal system. I have never been charged with anything under the legal system so I have not seen the system work from that aspect but through following many cases some making headlines and others just local cases I have seen the law in its purest form. I love to discuss cases and verdicts with colleagues and friends, my interest for law is at the highest point it could possibly be and there is no one who wants this more than I do, I do not care about the money lawyers receive or the status they hold in society.

My undergraduate experience has been filled with many new lessons in law, political science and sociology, I did not want to be limited to one area of academic learning, in order to avoid this I diversified my education with other programs in the humanities.

The study of criminal law has always attracted me over other areas of law, I enjoy presenting cases in front of an audience and have no issues with public speaking. While at Algoma University many of the courses which I took dealt with some sort of public speaking and this is a useful skill to possess in the legal field as well as other fields. My goal in the legal field is not to sit and do paper work I want to be in the legal process on the front lines, I want to be in court room presenting cases and helping individuals within the legal system.

Write a personal statement for admissions to Law School. Follow the instructions taken from U of T's Law School.

The Admissions Committee conducts no interviews, the personal statement is an applicant's opportunity to outline those features of the application which distinguish the applicant. The content of the personal statement is not prescribed. However applicants are encouraged to use the personal statement to share their "story" with the Admissions Committee. Applicants may wish to outline in the personal statement such things as their choice of undergraduate program and institution; the extent to which it has prepared them for the study of law; and if appropriate, any anomalies in the academic record including false starts, fewer than five courses over two terms, and introductory courses taken in the third or fourth years of a program.

The personal statement is also an opportunity for applicants to highlight their non-academic accomplishments as well as any circumstances which may have contributed to or detracted from their academic and non-academic success, such as the response to disadvantage due to adverse personal or socio-economic circumstances or to barriers faced by cultural (including racial or ethnic) or linguistic minorities; and the impact of temporary or permanent physical disabilities. Applicants may want to write to the Committee about the different ways they see themselves contributing to the law school and legal community.

Mature applicants are required to submit both a personal statement and a detailed résumé of their work and other experience including current position or status.

Aboriginal applicants are requested to outline in their personal statements their interest in, identification with, and connection to their communities.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



- Who should you ask for a letter of recommendation? Who shouldn't you ask?
- What do you need to do well before asking for a letter of recommendation?
- What do you need to give to your referee?
- When should you ask for a letter of recommendation?
- What should you do after you ask for a letter of recommendation?

LSAT



INTERVIEW



Prepare for the interview.

NATURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Discussion questions

- What do you think of Law School education in Canada and the US?

- What would you change about legal education in Canada?
- Why do Law Schools have a virtual monopoly over law teaching?
- Why do grades matter so much? What do you think of the grading by the curve approach to evaluation?
- What does “going back to basics” mean? What is the relevance, if any, of studying black letter law in Law School, undergraduate university programs, and two-year colleges?
- Do you think you can study law from a legal perspective during your first degree university program? What is the use?
- What is the significance, if any, of studying law at the undergraduate level?
- What is your opinion of the Law and Social Science and theoretical movement in Law Schools? Look for a Law Review article written from a Law and Social Science perspective by an Assistant Professor from an American or Canadian Law School. What do you think of the article? What are the author’s credentials?

Admission to the legal profession

Discussion Questions

- What do you think of the admission to the legal profession process in Canada? Are there any discriminatory consequences of the process?
- What changes, if any, would you make to the admission process?
- What do you think of the bar admission process in the United States? How is it different from the Canadian process?

- How does preparing for the bar exam affect everyday life? What can you do when preparing for the bar exam? What can't you do? What factors other than education and studying influence the preparation for the bar exam?
- What is the value of memorizing hundreds of rules? Is there a connection between being able to memorize rules and being a capable and effective lawyer?
- Research the bar admission process in jurisdictions other than the US and Canada. Discuss those processes.
- What do you think of the Law Societies movement to have a Canadian common law degree curriculum? What should the role of the Law Societies be?
- What do you think of the recognition of foreign legal credentials in Canada? Should there be a different treatment for Canadian and foreign graduates of international Law Schools?
- Why do you think that so many Canadian students study Law abroad? Would you consider studying Law abroad? Why or why not? What are the main challenges?

FOREIGN LEGAL CREDENTIALS

NCA scenarios

1. Lance is a graduate of Bond Law School in Australia. He has a 4-year B.A. from Algoma University. At Bond his GPA was 85%. He had no marks below 55%.
2. Alex studied at Harvard Law School. His GPA was the equivalent of 75%. He did not take any Canadian common law courses.
3. Paula went to New York University Law School. She did not take any Canadian law courses. Her GPA was the equivalent of 68%. She got 55% in Criminal Law and 53% in International Law. The passing grade is 50%.
4. Juan is a graduate of the University of Barcelona's Faculty of Law. He did a 5-year program in Law right after finishing High School. Juan's GPA was 89%. He has professional experience in Spain and France. He even published several journal articles in Labour Law and Environmental Law. His Environmental Law articles are cited in Canadian and US law journals.

5. Gaby and Herman are siblings. They are both graduates of Algoma University's Business program. Gaby has always been an excellent student. Everybody says that Herman is a slacker. Herman went to the University of Saskatchewan School of Law. His GPA was 56%. Apart from required courses, he took easy elective courses not dealing with substantive law such as Law and Music, Law and Sports, and Law and the Arts. He never took courses in Administrative Law, Corporate Law, Evidence or Professional Responsibility. He completed bar requirements and is now a licensed lawyer. Gaby went to Harvard Law School. Her GPA was 67% -a pretty good GPA for Harvard. In Criminal Law, Gaby got a 60% in her final test, but received a 54% because of the curve system of evaluation. The NCA required Gaby to take the following courses: Canadian Administrative Law, Corporate Law, Evidence, Criminal Law, and Professional Responsibility, among others. She is angry that the NCA makes her take courses which her brother never took.
6. Courtney studied in New Zealand in an online accredited program. She did a 3-year law school program (common law) with some Canadian subjects. Her GPA was 88%.
7. Piotr is a graduate of the University of Moscow's Faculty of Law program, a 5-year program which students normally take after finishing High School. Piotr graduated from the University of Moscow in 2008. He did an LL.M. in New York University's School of Law where he specialized in Tax Law.
8. Christa went to the UC Davis College of Law. She finished her degree in 2003 with an 87% GPA. She did a master's and a Ph.D. program in International Relations at Harvard University's School of Public Government. She finished in 2011.
9. Sally graduated from Queen's Mary's School of Law (University of London) from a three-year LL.B program with no Canadian content. Sally was admitted to the LL.B. right after she finished an International Baccalaureate (High School). Her GPA was 77% with no failed courses or barely passing marks.
10. Brittany is a graduate of Algoma University's Sociology program. She studied Law at Queen's Mary's School of Law (University of London). She did a two-year LLB program for advanced students (those with a degree in another discipline). According to the School's website: "The program is primarily designed for graduates who wish to obtain a professionally qualifying Law degree." Her GPA was 79%.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM REFORM

Discussion questions

- What do you think about the evaluation system in Europe?
- What are the differences between legal education in Europe and North America? What do you think about these differences? Which system do you prefer? Which aspects of the European system do you find better than the North American system?
- Discuss how the Bologna process has been affecting legal education in Europe.
- From the scenes we have just watched, please describe the pedagogy used in European law faculties. How is it different from the Socratic method? Which do you think fosters deep learning?
- Are there any instances of deep learning? Discuss them.

Based on your experience in this course so far, design the curriculum for undergraduate legal studies at Algoma University. Take into account both the learning outcomes, i.e., the skills you want students to take out of the program, and the content.

LEGAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE (BIG LAW FIRMS)



Read the article My Life as an Associate by Jonathan Foreman and discuss the following questions based on the lecture, the video, and the article:

- What do you think of the hiring process for large law firms?

- Do you think there is an overemphasis on grades? Do grades reflect deep learning? What do you think of the cascade effect of Law School grades?
- What are alternative career paths for Law School graduates? What are the advantages and the disadvantages of these other paths?
- What is life in a large law firm for an associate?
- Why do junior associates spend so much money?
- What does Jonathan Foreman mean by “we were also faced with alienation from the products of our labor”?
- What is the hierarchy in large law firms?
- Describe the bullying culture? Why does this happen?
- What happens in times of economic crisis?
- What do you think of the large law firm environment? Is this something that may appeal to you?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Design a professional development plan for your junior associates taking into account Donald Schon’s article.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER SCENARIOS

1. Sue wants to be a parole and probations officer. She has just completed her BA in Law and Justice at Algoma University. She did a minor in Business. She does not speak French. While studying at Algoma, she worked part-time as a clerk in a law firm that does Real Estate law. What are her chances of getting a job as a parole and probation officer? What can she do to improve her chances?
2. Miriam wants to be a parole and probations officer. She has just completed her BA in Law and Justice at Algoma University. She did not do a minor, but she took electives in Psychology, Social Work, and French. In high school, she went to a French immersion program. She has a blog on Criminal Justice. She writes about developments in Criminal Justice, summarizes new Criminal Law legislation and judicial cases; and she comments on news dealing with crimes. Her blog is quite popular. While studying at Algoma, she did volunteer work for a parole officer. What are her chances of getting a job as a parole officer? What can she do to improve her chances?

3. Paul is a second-year Algoma U student. He is majoring in Law and Justice; and he wants to plan his career. He is not sure what he wants to do, but he does not want to go to Law School. What can he do?
4. Ron is a graduate of Algoma University's BA in Law and Justice. He came to Algoma directly from High School. He never did volunteer work. He has had OSAP loans and has never worked. He has written a thesis on police interviewing techniques. He wants to apply to a police constable position with Sault Ste. Marie Police Service. What are his chances of getting the job? What can he do to improve his chances?
5. John is a graduate of the Police Foundations program at Sault College. He has also finished a BA in Law and Justice from Algoma University. He is actively involved in the community. He coaches a high school soccer team. He volunteers at the Soup Kitchen; and he volunteers at a retirement home every Saturday. While at Algoma University, he worked at the Wishart Library. He also worked at Walmart and Tim Hortons. He wants to apply to a police constable position with Sault Ste. Marie Police Service. What are his chances of getting the job? What can he do to improve his chances?
6. Tim is a graduate of Algoma University's BA in Law and Justice and Sault College's Police Foundations. He is actively engaged in the community as a volunteer. He weighs 200 lbs. He wants to apply to a police constable position with Sault Ste. Marie Police Service. What are his chances of getting the job? What can he do to improve his chances?
7. Rick is a graduate of Algoma University's BA in Law and Justice. He has never worked, as he has had OSAP loans. He wants to work as a paralegal in a law firm. What can he do? What are his chances of getting a job as a paralegal? What can he do to improve his chances?
8. Gaby is a graduate of Algoma University's 3-year BA in Law and Justice. She wants to work as a corrections officer. She has had several jobs in the hospitality industry. What are her chances of getting a job? What can she do to improve her chances?
9. Vanessa is a second-year Law and Justice student at Algoma University. She has applied for a position as a student border services officer with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). She has had OSAP loans and has never worked. She does not speak French. Her application was denied. Why do you think this happened? What can she do to improve her chances next year?
10. Veronica is determined to be a Criminal Investigative Analyst, also known as criminal profiler. She is a graduate of Algoma University's BA in Law and Justice. She wants to plan her career and is prepared to do anything it takes to fulfil her dream, even to go to graduate school. She comes to you for advice. What can you tell her?

Non-lawyer careers

Title	Education	Accreditation/ Regulated	Skills for entry- level jobs	Knowledge and other requirements for entry-level
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		profession		jobs
Parole and Probations officers	BA in Social Sciences	N/A	English and French Communication skills Counselling and assessment skills Client and stakeholder relationships	Interpretation and application of relevant legislation. Familiarity with courts and legal practices and procedures; Case management/social work principles/practices; Interviewing and counselling principles. Proven problem solving and analytical skills. Computers.
Police constable	High School required In practice, College degree plus University degree	N/A	Physical skills Work experience Community involvement (very important)	Moral standards No criminal record
Paralegal	College program (2 years)	College degree in an accredited program Licensing examination Good character	Varies according to specialization. Communication and problem solving skills.	Varies. Experience is considered an asset.
Corrections officer	High School		Test to determine aptitude, cognitive and behavioural requirements of the correctional officer position. Fitness test. Security clearance.	Volunteer experience in corrections is considered an asset.
Student	Full-time			Experience dealing with the

Border Services officer	student in an accredited post-secondary institution; and willing to return to full-time studies in the next academic term;			general public. Secret security assessment. French may be required.
Criminal Investigative Analyst (Criminal profiler)	High School degree. University degree in Psychology, Criminology or related field is considered an asset	N/A Currently the only three police forces in Canada that have CIA positions are the RCMP, OPP, and QPP.	Criminal investigation analysis and profiling.	Extensive policing experience. Knowledge of crime scene investigation and police procedures regarding interviewing, interrogation, and forensic pathology.

LAW PROFESSORS

Explore the following websites

- <http://ww3.lawschool.cornell.edu/faculty-pages/wendel/teaching.htm>
- <http://www.law.nyu.edu/acp/index.htm>,
- <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/88.htm>
- http://www.law.columbia.edu/careers/law_teaching
- <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/careerservices/pathstolawteaching>

Discussion questions

Read the [article](#) “The Big Rock Candy Mountain: How to Get a Job in Law Teaching by Brad Wendel” and discuss the following questions.

- How do candidates prepare to become a law professor? What are the disadvantages of this process? What is the classical path? What do you think of the credentials and skills required for teaching at Law School? What changes, if any, would you make? Why?
- What do you think about the recruitment process for Law School professors in the US? What are the consequences of this recruitment process? What changes, if any, would you make to the hiring process of Law School professors?
- Why is a Ph.D. not required to teach at Law Schools? What is the value of the Ph.D. in the recruitment process? Which Ph.D.s are more helpful? Which ones are not regarded as useful?
- Does getting an LL.M. help in obtaining a Law School position?
- Suppose you want to be a Law School professor in Canada. What realistic path would you take to get a job?
- Why is there so much emphasis on writing and publishing? What are the consequences of this emphasis?
- Choose a Law School from Ontario, another common law school from the rest of Canada, a top elite Law School from the United States, and a non-elite US Law School.
 - Analyze the education of recently hired Assistant Professors. Where do most come from? Where don't they come from? What are their credentials? What are the flaws of their education? How many publications do they have?
- What do you think about the tenure and promotion systems?

LEGAL PEDAGOGIES

- Does this (surface learning) happen here at Algoma?
- Do you agree that most students forget almost everything they learn in college? If so, why does this happen?

- If Father Guido Sarducci hired you to teach Legal Studies at the Five Minute University, what big question/s would you like your students to answer? What skills will your students need to answer that question?
- How will you encourage your students' interest in those questions and skills?
- Think of any activity (including activities outside law and education) and analyze its surface, deep, tacit, and shadow structures.

Microteaching:

- Teach a Legal Studies class on any legal topic of your choice.
- Teach a Law School class on any legal topic of your choice. Include the Socratic method.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



*** TRIGGER WARNINGS**

Some materials in this course may be sensitive. Course materials, including lectures, class activities, hypotheticals, scenarios, examples, court cases, and films shown in class, may have mature content, including violent, sexual, and strong language content. Except for newspaper articles and court cases, all class activities are hypothetical and fictitious. Any resemblance to actual persons, institutions, or events is purely coincidental. The views and opinions expressed in the articles assigned for reading in this course are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the course professor. Questions, follow-up questions, examples, and comments made within the context of class activities do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the course professor. All such articles, comments, questions, examples, and activities are meant solely to facilitate the discussion and study of Law. They are not meant to advocate or promote any crime or unlawful action. Neither are they meant to advance any ideological perspective. Discretion advised before signing up for this course.