



Legal Studies (LGST) 230

The Canadian Legal System (Revision 6)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#) for the current revision ❌

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online . Delivered via Brightspace.

Credits:

3

Area of study:

Applied Studies (Business and Administrative Studies)

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

LGST 430. (LGST 230 cannot be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for LGST 430.)

Challenge: LGST 230 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

This course is designed primarily for students who are interested in learning more about Canada's legal system, its history and development, and trends in Canadian law.

Outline

- Unit 1: What Is Law?
- Unit 2: Legal Systems in Canada
- Unit 3: Courts and the Judiciary
- Unit 4: Civil Liberties
- Unit 5: Tort and Contract Law
- Unit 6: Property and Family Law
- Unit 7: Business and Consumer Law

- Unit 8: Administrative Law
- Unit 9: Criminal Law
- Unit 10: Other Areas of Law
- Unit 11: The Legal Profession
- Unit 12: Access to Justice and Law Reform

Learning outcomes

After completing LGST 230, you should be able to

1. describe what we mean by law in Canada in comparison to other normative systems and explain some leading theories of law.
2. describe the two legal systems found in Canada and explain their differences.
3. explain the structure of the Canadian legal system and describe the role and function of the judiciary.
4. explain the basic principles of Canadian tort, contract, property, business, family, administrative, and criminal law.
5. describe the nature and sources of civil liberties in Canada.
6. identify the different branches of legal professionals in Canada and describe their educational requirements.
7. explain what is meant by access to justice and law reform, and describe some initiatives in both areas.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for LGST 230, you must submit five assignments, achieve an overall course grade of **D (50 percent)**  or better, and receive a passing grade of 50 percent or better on the final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Graded Quiz	10%
Final Exam	50%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved

in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

Materials

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Fairlie, J. (2023) *Introduction to law in Canada* (3rd ed). Emond Publishing.

Other Resources

All other learning resources will be available online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for the LGST 230 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on the examination. A letter grade will be given based upon the examination mark awarded.

 **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- › **Academic advising** 
- › **Program planning** 
- › **Request assistance** 
- › **Support services at AU** 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery modes may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 6, January 24, 2025

Updated June 8, 2026

View **previous revision** 