



Ashlar College of Freemasonry

Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon

Curriculum of ACF

LEVEL 1

1A.1 - Origins and History of Freemasonry to 1640

This first course is exploring the small and limited material which exists about how Freemasonry as we know it today was occurring from a period of 1390 through to 1640. No one knows exactly how Freemasonry moved from operative, to accepted, to speculative. The student is required to contemplate what knowledge there is written and put forward his thoughts.

1A.2 – Jurisprudence – Constitutions and Regulations of BC&Y

Jurisprudence is a system or body of law, and the science or philosophy of the law. The course gives the student some insight into our rules of Freemasonry – the Constitutions. The student also looks at other aspects of Masonic law, landmarks, and the bylaws of the lodge, ancient usages and customs and the prerogatives of a Grand Master.

1A.3 - Philosophy, Ethics and Principles

The student will study the sections of our lives which create within us the principles for an upright life, the belief in a God: the VOSL: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth: Temperance Fortitude, Prudence and Justice: Faith, Hope and Charity: Honour and Virtue: These each are referenced in our ritual. The student will explore their meaning and significance to creating a better life.

1B.1 – History of Freemasonry in Canada

The history of the formation of Freemasonry in Canada from the first lodge to today, where all provinces now have sovereign Grand Lodges. The growth of Freemasonry in Canada is significant and the course explores where Freemasonry started and expanded. This course encourages the student to understand the importance of history and that Freemasonry is vital to have its history recorded.

1B.2 – Proficiency in Lodge Management – understanding publications of Grand Lodge

Several publications of our jurisdiction [Constitutions, The Ceremonies Book, Ritual, Bylaws, Lodge Officer's Guide] are examined through the response to 115 questions. Important information within these books are emphasized in the questions selected.

1B.3 – Masonic Symbolism – setting up lodge, requirements and their significance

The understanding of our Symbols, their origin, history and application from both an exoteric and esoteric perspective is an unending quest and one that must of necessity be undertaken by the individual Mason and based on his own personal perspectives and needs. The Course has students examine the symbols of a lodge room, their significance and placement.

LEVEL 2

2A.1 - Origins and History of Freemasonry from 1631 through to 1717

The course continues the student's survey of masonic events and factual proof of Freemasonry expanding towards the establishing to the Grand Lodge of England. You will be identifying up to three men whose influence towards the developing Freemasonry is of significance in our present Freemasonry.

2A.2 - Effective Leadership and Communication

Of all the vital elements of a lodge, none is more relevant and important to the development of good, vibrant lodges than dynamic leadership and smooth and seamless communications. The course will evaluate important characteristics of leadership for a lodge and improved communications. This course is very practical, as the concluding assignments will put the student in a good position to offer gentle suggestions to his lodge for change and improvement.

2A.3 - Lectures and Charges Part I

This course is the first part of two courses exploring the meaning and understanding of our lectures and charges. The analysis will be helpful to understand the importance of the two sections to each degree. You will focus on what the words mean in our lectures and charges.

2B.1 - History of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon

This course builds on 1B.1 – Canadian History of Freemasonry. The scope of the course is from 1860s to 2000s. The student will review closely several significant chapters of the *History of Freemasonry of British Columbia* authored by J. Marshall and printed in 1971. The book was the Centennial project of our jurisdiction. Knowledge of the birth, growth and development of Freemasonry in BC&Y is significant knowledge to have. *The History of Freemasonry in BC* is now available on our website.

2B.2 - Planning

Planning of any event and of any organization is imperative for the progress of the individual or the institution. We have to know where we are going. Our Grand Lodge established the Five Pillar Plan in 2007. This course takes the student through several areas of planning and provides him with skills to prepare a plan for his use, as well as offering skills to help a lodge in creating plans, or improving plans it may have.

2B.3 - Lectures and Charges Part II

This course is part two of 2A.3. In this section the student will delve into the early manuscripts from which some of the wording found in our lectures and charges comes from. He will review one manuscript of his choosing to identify its importance to our Freemasonry today. What content does it have which is still used or referred to in our present ritual and/or constitution?

LEVEL 3

3A.1 - Origins of Freemasonry 1717 through to 1813

The course is a follow-on from 2A.1 where the student looks and the historical significance of events and Masons who developed the Freemasonry from 1717 through to the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813. Most importantly will be the work of the Ancient and Modern Masons of this century. It is through these years that several other countries also created their Grand Lodges.

3A.2 - Mentoring

In the past decade our Grand Lodge has supported the concept of mentoring, mentoring new masons, mentoring officers, mentoring each other. The course explores the importance of mentoring in our lodges and has the student prepare a plan for including mentoring in his lodge.

3A.3 - Virtues

Our rituals are teeming with virtues, either directly stated or implied. Given a list of 96 virtues, the student will analyze the ritual he uses to show where the virtues are mentioned or implied. He will also select three virtues and write a short paper on each.

3B.1 - World Freemasonry

The student will select another masonic jurisdiction and review the basics of its structure, constitution, history, and make some comparisons with our own jurisdiction. Students taking this course should have access to the jurisdiction he chooses, either by having been part of it or having close ties to brethren belonging to it. and who could pass along relevant material for the purposes of comparison.

3B.2 - The Masonic Family

Since the formation of formal masonry (1717), the development of several rites and other masonic orders, have been created. The student will choose three appendant orders of Masonry and explore the origins, history and present condition of the order.

3B.3 – A Personal Philosophy

Having taken all the work of the courses, the student will now begin to lay out for himself a philosophy of his own which may or may not have been influenced by his present membership in the craft.

Students at level 3 are invited to explore some self-directed studies of masonic topics of their interest, and substitute them with any two of the 6 courses outlined in level three shown above. Self-directed courses can be from any of the three strands.