

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**SUMMER 2026 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAW 347A Indigenous Intellectual Property
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (condensed, 9 hours of instruction per week)
<b>INSTRUCTORS</b>	Val Napoleon
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Summer 2026
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See Schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITE</b>	None

**Note:** Due to the condensed nature of this course, students are strongly encouraged to ensure they attend all classes.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Students will understand the importance of Indigenous legal perspectives, and how those perspectives shape the aspirations of laws.
- Students are introduced to, and will practice a narrative analysis of Indigenous law.
- Students will understand Indigenous law as law (i.e., as a social problem-solving resource).
- Students will understand Indigenous intellectual property within respective societal, economic and political ordering.
- Students will learn to see the contradictions and similarities between western legal constructs of intellectual property law and Indigenous intellectual property law such (e.g., public domain, control and ownership, access, etc.).
- Students will begin to gain an understanding of Indigenous intellectual property law within a plural legal system.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The premise of this course is that the articulation, restatement, and development of Indigenous intellectual property law must derive from Indigenous legal orders as an integral part of the societal and economic governance. Given this, tangible and intangible intellectual property concerns will be identified as Indigenous legal issues and approached as legal problems within specific Indigenous legal orders. The course will explore legal control and governance by Indigenous peoples over Indigenous tangible and intangible property with a focus on societal/economic, and artistic purposes, rather than patents and trademarks.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will be a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, and in-class assignments. Students are expected to attend classes and to be prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

#### **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

10% Class participation

30% Questions based on the readings and submitted before class: 3x5 and 1x15

25% Analyses and Synthesis, and presentation of Gitksan Narratives

35% Analysis of an Indigenous Intellectual Property problem

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Please refer to the University's *Policy on Academic Integrity*

*February 2026*

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<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, [law.studentservices@uvic.ca](mailto:law.studentservices@uvic.ca).