

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
SUMMER 2026 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 388A Indigenous Law Research, Method and Practice
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (condensed, 9 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Hadley Friedland
TERM OFFERED	Summer 2026
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES / COREQUISITES	None

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

Description

The TRC final report calls for greater recognition and use of Indigenous laws in Canada. Many Indigenous communities, justice system professionals and legal scholars are increasingly interested in accessing, understanding, and applying Indigenous legal traditions today. Yet *how* to do this raises critical practical and theoretical questions. This highly interactive intensive seminar explores some of the current approaches related to these challenges. Students will identify and critically examine legal theories about the nature and sources of law, and reflect on collaborative legal research and the work of Indigenous law revitalization in inter-societal contexts. Students will have opportunities to hear about, practice and evaluate methods for engaging with Indigenous legal traditions respectfully and robustly, and examine the major questions that arise from engagement in various settings. Students will also actively engage with specific Indigenous legal traditions, in a respectful and supportive environment.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

- Students will explore the concept of law and the societal narratives about law and Indigenous peoples that impact our perceptions, understandings, and expectations of law generally and Indigenous laws specifically.
- Students will identify and critically evaluate intellectual and practical challenges to recognizing and working with Indigenous laws today.
- Students will identify and critically evaluate various methods and resources for engaging with Indigenous laws.
- Students will build their capacity to apply one or more of the identified methods to ascertain Indigenous legal principles from a specific Indigenous legal tradition.
- Students will build their capacity to apply Indigenous legal principles to problem-solve practice fact scenarios through class activities, culminating in an in-class moot.
- Students will develop an understanding of how legal regulation and decision-making can be grounded in Indigenous law.

Class Set Up

The TRC defines reconciliation as everyday practices of building and maintaining respectful relationships. This course is designed as a highly interactive seminar practicing professional etiquette, respectful engagement, and dialogue across legal orders and over differences on, at times, difficult or sensitive subjects.

Course Evaluation:

- 20% - Professionalism in Inter-societal Contexts (in-class activities and discussion)
- 30% - In-class Moot
- 50% - Final Take home Exam – Due date TBA (within 2 weeks of class end)

January 2026

¹ 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