

**INDIGSTU 3722G / POLITICAL SCIENCE 3398G:
INDIGENOUS LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES
WINTER 2026
Indigenous Studies Program**

Course Description:

Political and legal issues are inseparable in contemporary examinations of land use, selfdetermination, governance, individual and community rights. This course will examine the legal institutions and practices of traditional Indigenous cultures as well as contemporary practice.

Extra Information:

Online asynchronous

Modules and lectures updated every Monday morning.

Syllabus updated December 29, 2025

Course Weight: .50 credits

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: INDIGSTU

*Note: Syllabus is subject to change.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop basic knowledge of Indigenous and Canadian laws and legal orders, including foundational terminology.
2. Consider the nature of law, what is and is not law, and learn how to talk about laws and legal orders.
3. Better understand how law has been a tool of colonization; consider if and how law can be a tool of decolonization and Indigenous resurgence.
4. Explore the tensions between Indigenous laws and Canadian state laws and political institutions, the historical and contemporary foundations of the legal orders in which we live, how law has and continues to function as a tool of colonization, and how it influences the legal and political systems in which we live.

5. Consider legal, political, social, environmental and cultural issues past and present, as well as the possibilities and challenges of fighting for rights and recognition within and outside of the Canadian state legal system.