

# FALL 2025 APPLICATION

## **ĆELÁNENEŁ: A Field Course in the Re-emergence of W̱SÁNEĆ Law September 2025**

### **Application and Registration Information**

**PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING APPLICATION**

**Course Instructor:** Rob Clifford

#### **Course Description:**

The Allard School of Law is offering ĆELÁNENEŁ: A Field Course in the Re-emergence of W̱SÁNEĆ Law during the Fall term of 2025. This course is offered in partnership with the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation and the generous financial support of the Victoria Foundation. ĆELÁNEN means “ancestry or birthright” and ĆELÁNENEŁ means “of the ancestor’s cultural ways” or “of the birthrights”. This intensive place-based course will be taught in the W̱SÁNEĆ community on the Saanich Peninsula and will include a number of trips to local mountains, rivers, and a 3-night camping trip on the Gulf Islands. This course is focused on W̱SÁNEĆ People’s own laws, and the ways in which those laws are generated and carried forward. Consideration will also be given to the colonial relationship and power structures between the W̱SÁNEĆ and Canadian legal traditions, as well as the opportunities and barriers this creates for the revitalization of W̱SÁNEĆ law. A principal purpose of the course will be to develop a collaborative community-based legal education model. During eight weeks of the course students will work under the supervision of W̱SÁNEĆ community members in learning and applying W̱SÁNEĆ law to community-based projects identified as important by the W̱SÁNEĆ community.

This course will be a term long externship and will comprise a full 15 credits for the semester. 11 of those credits will be counted as a clinical externship and graded on a pass/fail basis. The remaining 4 credits will be counted as an externship reflection and will require the completion of a final paper due at the end of the exam period. The first three to four weeks of the course involve an intensive land-based learning component where students will have 6 hours of contact per day, which will also include skills-based components in preparation for student community projects. Class contact hours over the next eight weeks will fluctuate while students are engaged as community-based learners and participants working in small groups of 2 or 3 directly with W̱SÁNEĆ elders and knowledge holders on identified projects. Students will be expected to treat this eight-week period as a full-time educational experience, devoting at least 30 hours a week to their community-based work and research. During this eight-week period, we will also meet as a group once per week to hear from guest speakers, to debrief as a group regarding the ongoing community projects, or to go on the occasional land-based outing. The last week of the class will once again involve a 6 contact-hours-a-day classroom component. Students will make presentations and engage in discussions with one another and select community members related to their eight-week placement experiences. We will open and close the course in a culturally appropriate way.

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## **Learning Outcomes:**

During this course students will undertake and learn the following:

- Identify W̱SÁNEĆ legal principles from a W̱SÁNEĆ perspective;
- Begin to appreciate how W̱SÁNEĆ legal principles correlate with W̱SÁNEĆ worldview;
- Develop a conceptual framework for understanding Indigenous legal traditions;
- Begin to develop methodologies to understand and access Indigenous law;
- Begin to learn and apply W̱SÁNEĆ law in a community context;
- Critically evaluate the colonial relationship and power structures between the W̱SÁNEĆ and Canadian legal traditions; and
- Engage in self-reflection regarding our individual situatedness within the relationships, as well as power structures, identified throughout the course.

## **Important Practical Information:**

This externship will take place in the W̱SÁNEĆ community on southern Vancouver Island, approximately 30 minutes north of Victoria. Allard students will be provided accommodation for the semester at no additional cost. Arrangements for this accommodation are to be finalized. While a single 8-bedroom home may be rented, multiple locations may also be used for accommodations. Should students want, or require, accommodation other than that provided, they will be responsible for arranging and paying for those alternative accommodations on their own. Students will also be responsible for their own travel costs between Vancouver and Vancouver Island at the outset and end of the course. Students may return to the lower mainland on weekends, should they choose to, but will need their own transportation. Finally, students will also be responsible for the cost of meals throughout the term (with a few exceptions). Accommodations, though not yet finalized, are sure to include a kitchen and be located in the relative vicinity of grocery stores. More detailed information on costs and other information is indicated below.

## **Eligibility and Admission:**

The W̱SÁNEĆ law field course will be open to both Allard Law and University of Victoria upper-year law students (2L and 3L). At least 8 students will be accepted from each institution. There are no pre-requisites for this course.

An intensive field course of this nature requires students who are interested, dedicated, and respectful while engaging and learning in an Indigenous community. Students interested in this externship must submit a course application (included below) along with a one-page (maximum) written statement detailing why they are interested in taking the course in order to be eligible to participate. Students may also be asked to have a short conversation with the Professor prior to being accepted into the course. **The application must be submitted no later than Tuesday, May 20<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**

## **Credits, Tuition and Cost:**

Students who are accepted into the W̱SÁNEĆ law field course will be registered by Student Services in LAW 379: Externship (11 credits) and Law 380: Externship Reflection (4 credits),

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for a total of 15 credits. Students will pay full-time tuition for 15 credits tuition to UBC for the Fall 2025 term.

The WSÁNEĆ law field course will cover costs for transportation to all field trip locations, such as the ferry fees to the Gulf Islands. Students must pay for any additional personal costs during the course, including daily meals, and any additional travel for personal reasons.

### **Teaching Methodology and Evaluation Method:**

Teaching methodology will include land-based pedagogy, class discussion, lectures, guest lectures, oral presentations, in-class exercises, film, and a number of field trips. Course materials will include articles, excerpts from books, and other resources materials. Students will be required to purchase a few reference books relating to WSÁNEĆ law and culture, which will serve as excellent resources for the course, community projects, and final papers.

The experiential component of the WSÁNEĆ law field course will be graded on a pass/fail basis. All students are expected to attend all classes and trips, and to participate in class discussions. Students will be expected to share about their ongoing community-based projects during our weekly group debriefing sessions. At the completion of their eight-week community-based projects students will provide an accessible memo or report directed to their community supervisor regarding the work they have undertaken (approximately 10 pages). The memo will also be copied to the course instructor. During the final week of the course, students will provide a one-hour (minimum) oral presentation (as a group) to the rest of the class outlining their particular community projects/placements.

Students will also complete a final academic paper or reflection piece, due on the last day of the exam period. This paper is graded.

### **Facility, Accessibility and Academic Accommodation:**

The WSÁNEĆ field course's "home-base" will be at the ŁÁU, WELNEW Tribal School (7449 West Saanich Road) on the Tsartlip First Nation reserve. The classroom components and all field trips will leave from this location. Students may also use this location as a workspace during their community-based projects. Students must be able to commute to this location from the accommodations provided on a daily basis (by car, carpool, or otherwise). A refrigerator is available at this location to store packed lunches. Students should generally expect to be engaged in course learning / work from Monday – Friday, and roughly 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The WSÁNEĆ law field course will run during the Fall term and is structured around a number of place-based outings and field trips. While the majority of the field trips will take place during the earlier portion of the term (hopefully taking advantage of the nicer weather) there is always a chance of rainy and cool weather. Field trips and camping trips will take place regardless of the weather, and students must be adequately prepared and equipped to spend entire days outside. Students will also be taking a 3-night camping trip to the Gulf Islands. Students will require adequate camping materials for this trip (including tent, sleeping bag, appropriate clothing, tableware, etc.). If camping material or equipment are an issue, let the instructor know

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well in advance and during the application process. Meals will be provided during the camping trip.

The field and camping trips for this course involve travel to a variety of rivers, mountains, and other locations. Paths to these locations may be gravel or rock/dirt and somewhat steep at times.

**Disability-related accommodations must be requested and addressed prior to the start of the course, and made note of during the application process.** Students with concerns regarding accessibility or accommodation should contact Rob Clifford (clifford@allard.ubc.ca) or Manager, Student Affairs, Zack Uganec (uganec@allard.ubc.ca).

### **Community Supervisors:**

The middle portion of the WSÁNEĆ law field course will include an 8-week community placement project. During this time students' primary point of contact will be assigned community supervisors, though the course instructor will also be available. While this portion of the class will require students to be independent in their work, students will remain in contact with each other through weekly class meetings.

### **Authorization for Consent to Medical Treatment:**

Students will be asked to sign an authorization for consent to medical treatment in case of emergency and will be required to provide contact information for one person who is not enrolled in the course.

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**LAW 379 Externship and LAW 380 Externship Reflection (15 credits)**  
**ĆELÁÑENEL: A Field Course in the Re-emergence of WSÁNEĆ Law**  
**at ŁÁU,WELNEW Tribal School, Tsartlip First Nation, Vancouver Island**

**Deadline: Tuesday, March 20, 11:59pm**

This form should be submitted via [ACE](#). All experiential opportunities are labelled “ExL 2025 - 2026: Clinic Name” on ACE.

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*The application must be completely filled out and accompany a statement indicating why you would like to take the course.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the following questions:**

1. Fall term 2025 will be my \_\_\_\_\_ term of \_\_\_\_\_ year. (*e.g. My first term of third year*).
2. I confirm the following:
  - ☐ I am able to commute to the ŁÁU,WELNEW Tribal School on a daily basis.
  - ☐ I have completed the one-page statement indicating why I would like to take the course.
  - ☐ I have (or will have) adequate outdoor wear for land-based field trips.
  - ☐ I have (or will have) adequate camping materials.
  - ☐ I am able to take part in a 3-night camping trip during the first portion of the course.
  - ☐ This course grants 15 (of the allowable 20) experiential learning credits in the J.D. program.
3. If I do not obtain a place in the field course, I understand that I will be automatically added to the waitlist.

I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting documentation and expectations regarding ĆELÁÑENEL: A Field Course in the Re-emergence of WSÁNEĆ Law, ŁÁU,WELNEW Tribal School, Tsartlip First Nation, Fall term 2025.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_