

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
2021-22 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION SUMMARY (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	Law 343-1 States, Companies and Legal Orders in Asia
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Victor V. Ramraj
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Fall 2021
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See schedule.
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	None

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES / BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Law's response to the global challenges of our time—from climate change to modern slavery to human, social, and economic development—requires an understanding of the relationship between states and companies, and the unique challenges of governing the state-company relationship in Asia. This seminar course examines how state and non-state actors use of innovate state, non-state, and hybrid forms of law, regulation, and policy in response to these challenges. It begins with an overview of the legal and historical context of Asian-European trade, and political and legal consequences of European merchant empires (e.g., the British East India Company, the Dutch VOC), and an overview of the legal traditions in the region. It then turns to the contemporary context, examining the political economy of states and companies, and a variety of legal, regulatory, and policy challenges arising from the state-company relationship. Although the precise topics change from year to year depending on current developments, some of the topics recently covered include China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), labour/industrial safety concerns, social and environmental pressures caused by infrastructure projects, and the challenge of climate change. Special attention will be given to the role played by transnational *non-state* actors (e.g., industry associations, multi-stakeholder regulators, NGOs, hybrid public-private regulators, and investment banks) in addressing these challenges—as well as the multiple layers of law (i.e., legal pluralism) in contemporary Asia. This course will encourage students to think creatively and holistically about the role of law that law can play, as well as its limits, in relations to complex and “wicked” problems. The precise topics covered will vary slightly depending on the availability of speakers and the interests of the students.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will be taught as a discussion-based seminar, and will include group presentations, simulations, or a panel discussion among the students facilitated by the instructor (depending on final enrolment numbers).

### **EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a. a group presentation, simulation, or panel discussion (depending on enrolment numbers) (10%);
- b. a written case study, research memorandum, or briefing paper (20%)
- c. participation in the seminar (10%); and
- d. a 4000-word research paper (60%).

*Revised 27 May 2021*

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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, the Associate Dean.