COURSE  
LAW 343-1 Pluralism and Political Authority (Cross-listed with POLI 433/533)

UNIT VALUE  
1.5 Units (3 class hours per week)

INSTRUCTOR  
Avigail Eisenberg

TERM OFFERED  
Spring 2020

CLASS TIMES  
See Schedule

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES  
None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Political authority is often cast in terms of the legitimate power of the state and assessed on the basis of whether state authority extends too far (authoritarianism and fascism) or not far enough (libertarianism and anarchism). This seminar considers some new directions in thinking about political authority that focus on non-state groups such as Indigenous communities, corporations, and religious associations which claim authority to follow their own rules and values even if these depart from ones endorsed by the state. We will consider classical treatments of authority by Hobbes, Weber, Arendt, Foucault, and others, as well as pluralist arguments about state authority, starting with Sophocles play Antigone, moving to early 20th-century political pluralists and critics such as Schmitt. The seminar will consider ways in which political authority today is plural, contested, relational, and enacted through practice.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Evaluation:
This is a seminar course. The evaluation components of the course include the following:

1. Five 300-word commentaries on one of the assigned readings for the week 15%
2. A good faith effort to participate in discussion 15%
3. Presentation 20%
4. Research proposal 10%
5. Research paper 40%

June 2019

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, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaess@uvic.ca).