



## Administration

- PASS
- WebCT and Email
  - Some Tools
  - Weekly Readings
  - Additional Readings
  - Discussion Forums
- Tutorials start next week
- Lecture Conduct (phones, laptops, arriving late, talking)

## What is Legal Studies?

- Law as a social phenomena? How is our understanding of law (re)produced?
- “Law too important to be left to the lawyers”(Specialists)
- Traditional touchstones strain under new pressures (jurisdiction, property, privacy, legal personality)
- Law as Regulator (what does it do? And how?)
- Law as Identity
  - The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Question of Canadian Identity
    - Evronics Poll (2003) 78% Very Important
    - Multiculturalism 47% (down)
  - Bearers of “human rights” (Cosmopolitan)
- “The dream of law” (Hunt) & horror of “legal black holes”- law & soc change

## Syllabus

- Reference Document (Print)
- My Contact Info
  - Email on syllabus
  - Office D599 Loeb (Thurs 9am+ by appt) (w/ T. Purvis)
- TA Contact Info (office hrs. by appt.)
  - Use Carleton email
- Course Overview
- Big Questions
- Course Texts
  - A few issues with the texts (Vago and Nelson)
- Evaluation
- Course Policies (see also Dept. policies)

## Term Overview

- Fall Term
  - Questions about what we understand law to be? Does law have limits? Should it?
  - Morality vs. Law, Politics vs. Law, Law vs. Law (pluralism)
  - Issues of Conflict Resolution, Adjudication & Legal Access/Roles
- Winter Term
  - Inclusion/Exclusion – Citizenship & Legal Identity
  - Legal actors (and institutions) e.g. Police, Courts, Lawyers, Experts and you (Juries)
  - Select issues in Substantive Law (e.g. Consent)
  - Law’s Frustrating Ambiguity (e.g. women’s issues)

## Questions to Ponder Week 2

- Vago and Nelson suggest there are two “paradigms of society” that support very different understandings of the law and its role in contemporary societies. Which is more convincing and why?
- Vatz (from V&N) suggests that our experience of law is essentially “faith based”, that faith in law is “no different than religious faith”, and that our belief in law as orderly, rational and predictable is a myth. Is he correct? If so, what are the strengths and weaknesses of such faith in the myth of law?