Political Science 8230: The State
Fall Semester 2011
Tuesdays 3:00-5:30 PM

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Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:30, and by appointment

This course offers an in-depth assessment of the state. It begins with the definitional question, and explores different approaches to the state. We will then proceed to historical analysis of the rise of states in Europe and other world regions. The third component of the course explores the relationship between states and societies, focusing on cases from both Europe and other world regions. Finally, the course explores the extent of state weakness around the world, and explanations for variation in the strength and stability of states, closing with two recent broad attempts to rethink the state and our relationship to it.

Readings range from theoretical social science to empirical work on a variety of specific cases, and from classics in the field to new work and non-academic accounts of particular countries and regions. The course will build toward the production of a significant research paper. You should use this paper to explore a set of issues relevant to your research interests; we can strategize about how to best do so. The paper should be about ten thousand words – the length of an article manuscript or dissertation chapter. There will be several intermediate deadlines to help you progress with your paper throughout the semester, and to get feedback from me on your ideas and your work.

Course Requirements:
1) Each student will be responsible for a question for each week. I will post questions on Blackboard 48 hours or so before class, assigning each question to a student. You will be in charge of kicking off discussion on the question by providing a one minute answer to it.
2) Two review essays, each on a book chosen from a list provided below – one due September 30, one by the last course meeting. The review will discuss how the book is relevant to the subject matter discussed in the course: how it conceives of the state, the arguments it develops, and the questions it raises in your mind that you would be interested in exploring in your term paper. The model here is a review essay like the ones in Comparative Political Studies; about 1500 words in length.
3) Several intermediate deadlines relating to your seminar paper, as specified below
4) Final paper of about 30 pages – due by the end of the final examination period. You should feel free to find a way to use the paper to explore issues related to your own research interests – I am quite flexible in terms of the requirements beyond the fact that this should be a substantial piece of original research related to the issues explored in this course.

Course Evaluation Guidelines:
Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:
• Class participation including responses to discussion questions: 25%
• 2 book reviews: 15% each
• Final paper: 45%

**Late Policy:** Unless you have a significant reason for turning in late work, please expect me to mark down all late work one third of a grade (e.g. A to A-) for each day that a paper is late. Unless there is a compelling reason, do not expect to take an incomplete in this course.

**Course Readings:**
Several books have been ordered for purchase at the campus bookstore. Used and e-book versions (for most) are also available for purchase online. Any edition is fine for all of these books.
- Scott, James *The Art of Not Being Governed* (Yale University Press, 2009)
- North, Wallis, and Weingast *Violence and Social Orders* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)

Most other readings will be available through blackboard or from the library’s collection of electronic journals, unless otherwise specified. Books for book review are available on 24 hour reserve at Paley.

**Week 1:** (August 30) Introduction – No reading assigned

**Week 2:** (September 6) The State: Alternative Conceptions
- Mann, Michael ‘The Autonomous Power of the State: its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results’ *European Journal of Sociology* (1984) NOTE: this journal is not available through the Temple library system; the article can easily be found in Google Scholar.
- Vu, Tuong ‘Studying the State Through State Formation’ *World Politics* (2010)

**Week 3:** (September 13) War and The Origins of the European State
- Hobbes *Leviathan* Book 1 Chapters 13-18
• Tilly ‘War-Making and State Making as Organized Crime’ in Bringing the State Back In pp.169-191
• Tilly Coercion, Capital, and European States (1990) pp.96-127.

Week 4: (September 20) War and the State – Beyond Europe
• Doner, Ritchie and Slater ‘Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective.’ International Organization 59 (Spring 2005), pp. 327-361

Week 5: (September 27) Rationalist Approaches to the Origins of the State
• Olson, Mancur Power and Prosperity pp.1-14.
• Herbst States and Power in Africa pp.137-197.

BOOK REVIEW DUE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30

Week 6: (October 4) State and Society in Europe: Unification, Progress, and Standardization

THREE PAPER IDEAS DUE BY EMAIL OCTOBER 7

**Week 7: (October 11) Administrative Design and State Strength**
- Gerring, John and Daniel Ziblatt ‘An Institutional Theory of Direct and Indirect Rule’ *World Politics* 2011
- Ziblatt, Daniel ‘Rethinking Federalism’s Origins’ *World Politics* 2004

**Week 8: (October 18) States, Coercion, and Violence**
- Straus, Scott *The Order of Genocide* pp. 3-64, 201-223
- Kalyvas, Stathis *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* pp.111-209
- Goodwin, Jeff *No Other Way Out* pp.217-253
- Slater, Dan ‘State Power and Staying Power (unpublished manuscript)

ONE PAGE OUTLINE AND LIST OF SOURCES ON PAPER TOPIC DUE OCTOBER 21 BY EMAIL

**Week 9: (October 25) Taxation and State Finance**
- Young, Crawford (1994) *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective* pp.77-140.

**Week 10: (November 1) State Weakness – and Democracy?**
Week 11: (November 8) Politics and Society without strong states

- Foreign Policy Failed States Index – available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4350 - please explore all the pages of this report before class. We’ll spend a good bit of time on this attempt to conceptualize and measure state failure.

Week 12: (November 15) State Collapse and State Re-Building


Week 13: (November 29) Re-thinking society

- Scott *The Art of Not Being Governed* (whole book)

Week 14 (December 6) A Unifying Framework?

- North, Wallis, and Weingast *Violence and Social Orders* (whole book)
List of Books for Review Essays:

- Barnett _Confronting the Costs of War_
- Boone _Political Topographies of the African State_
- Brewer _The Sinews of Power_
- Caldeira _City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo_
- Callahan _Making Enemies_
- Centeno _Blood and Debt: War and the Nation-State in Latin America_
- Chaudhry _The Price of Wealth_
- Ertman _Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Early Modern Europe_
- Evans _Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation_
- Fukuyama _State Building_
- Geddes _Politicians’ Dilemma: Building State Capacity in Latin America_
- Gorski _The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe_
- Kalyvas _The Logic of Violence in Civil War_
- Karl _The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States_
- Levi _Of Rule and Revenue_
- Lieberman _Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation in Brazil and South Africa_
- Scott _Seeing Like a State_
- Slater _Ordering Power_
- Spruyt _The Sovereign State and Its Competitors_
- Stanley _The Protection Racket State_
- Straus _The Order of Genocide_
- Volkov _Violent Entrepreneurs_