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Political Science BC3540
Constructing States, Nations and Democracy

Course Description: The course will examine the development of, and relationship among, the three constituent features of the modern political world: states, nations and democracy. The course will begin with the literature on state-building, investigating how and why states emerged first in Western Europe and then moving on to examine the challenges of state-building today. The course will then analyze how and why nations began to supplant other forms of identity during the early modern period in Europe, and then examine how and when national identities supplant or are submerged in other identities in different parts of the world today. The course will then move on to consider how state and nation building influence the strength and nature of democracy today.

Overall, the course will provide an in-depth introduction to the historical and contemporary study of political development.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class sessions, participate actively in discussions, and complete all readings before class. In addition, all students will be required to attend a library overview and make arrangements for a personal session with a research librarian to help prepare for their final research papers.

All students will complete two short papers which will provide background and review for their final research papers which will be of 25-35 pages. For this final paper students will pick one of the topics covered in the course and apply their knowledge of the research in this area to the analysis of a country or region they are particularly interested in.

The two short papers will each be worth 20%, class participation will be worth 20%, and the final research paper 40% of the final grade.

Seniors: In addition to the above requirements, all seniors who designate this colloquium to fulfill their Senior Capstone requirement will present their final research paper in class at the end of the semester along with a poster summarizing their research questions, arguments, and findings. A portion of seniors' final research paper grade will reflect the quality of their presentations. The poster will also be displayed at the senior end-of-year party in May. The poster will not be graded, but is required to receive a "Pass" for the senior requirement and will factor into Departmental considerations for Senior Project Distinction

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Identify key issues and debates in the study of state building, national identity formation and democratic development.
2. Understand and be able to apply key theories about state-building, national identity formation and democracy to the analysis of both historical and contemporary cases.
3. Evaluate the relevance of the West's political development experience for countries at different stages of political development today.
4. Better construct and analyze causal arguments about political development.
5. Develop and present their own arguments about how states, nations and democracy develop and interact.
6. Apply the knowledge gained in the course to a particular country or region of the world in a sophisticated and innovative manner.

Course Readings: Readings will be available via courseworks, but the following books are suggested for purchase.

Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies.
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities.

Week 1 (January 28): Introduction. Different forms of political organization

-David Held, "The Development of the Modern State," pages 57-73, in Stuart Hall et al, eds., Modernity.

-Michael Mann, "The Autonomous Power of the State: its Origins, Mechanisms and Results," European Journal of Sociology (Archives européennes de sociologie), XXV, 1984.

-John Rapley, "The New Middle Ages," Foreign Affairs, 85, 3, 2006.

Week 2 (February 4): State Building in Europe

-Joseph Strayer, On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State, esp. i.

-Charles Tilly, Coercion, Capital and European States, chaps. 1 and 3.

-David Stasavage, "When distance mattered: geographic scale and the development of European representative assemblies," APSR, 2010, 104, 4.

Week 3 (February 11): Contemporary State Building

-Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, "Sovereignty and Underdevelopment: Juridical Statehood and the African Crisis," Journal of Modern African Studies, 24, 1, 1986.

-Jeffrey Herbst, States and Power in Africa, Intro, chapters. 1 and 9 (esp. 251-257).

-Miguel Centeno, "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth Century Latin America," American Journal of Sociology, 102, 6, May 1997.

Read either something on the Middle East or India, depending on your interests.

(Or both, if you are ambitious 😊):

-Lisa Anderson, "The State and in the Middle East and North Africa," Comparative Politics 1987.

-Lisa Anderson, "The State and Its Competitors," International Journal of Middle East Studies, 50, 2, May 2018 (very short).

--Sudipta Kaviraj, "A State of Contradictions: the post-colonial State in India," in Martin Doornbos and Sudipta Kaviraj, eds., Dynamics of State Formation: Europe and India Compared (London: Sage, 1998).

-Jeff Herbst and Greg Mills, "There is No Congo," Foreign Policy, online, March 2009.
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2009/03/18/there-is-no-congo/>

-Pierre Engelbert, "To Save Africa, Reject its Nations," NYT, June 12, 2010.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/12/opinion/12englebert.html>

-Joshua Keating, "When is a nation not a nation? Somalilands dream of independence."
https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/jul/20/when-is-a-nation-not-a-nation-somalilands-dream-of-independence?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Week 4: (February 18) The Development of Nationalism in Europe

- Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities, esp. pp. 1-46.
- Ernest Gellner, Nationalism, especially pp. 1-30.
- Eugen Weber, Peasants Into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870- 1914, chapters 1 (pp. 3-12), 6, 7, 12, 17, 18, 28, 29.

Week 5 (February 25): The Development of Nationalism in the Contemporary Era

- David Laitin, Identity in Formation, preface and chap 1.
- Deborah Yashar, Contesting Citizenship in Latin America, chapters 1 (2 is optional), 3, 7.
- Mahmood Mamdani, Citizen and Subject, chapters 1, 2, 8.

Optional:

- Orlando Patterson, "Context and Choice in Ethnic Allegiance," in Nathan Glazer and Daniel Moynihan, eds., Ethnicity

FIRST ESSAYS HANDED OUT (due March 7 to courseworks and to me via email)

Week 6 (March 4): Individual meetings to discuss paper topics

- make sure you have a meeting with the research librarian set up for after this meeting

Week 7 (March 11): States and Nations

- Andreas Wimmer, Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Conflict, chapters 1, 3, 4 and 7.
- Andreas Wimmer, "How Nations Come Together," AEON, May 2018.
https://aeon.co/essays/why-some-countries-come-together-while-others-fall-apart?utm_source=Aeon+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b9709e38c6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_411a82e59d-b9709e38c6-69402557
- James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War," APSR, 971, Feb. 2003.
- Edward Miguel, "Tribe or Nation? Nation-Building and Public Goods in Kenya Vs. Tanzania," World Politics, 56, April 2004, esp pages 327-339.
- Alice Su, "Separatism is no Solution," AEON December 2018.

<https://aeon.co/essays/why-ethnic-separatism-doesnt-work-as-a-solution-to-civil-war>

[March 18: Spring Break]

Week 8 (March 25): States and Democracy

- Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies, part 1.
- Fareed Zakaria, Intro., chapters 2 and 3 in The Future of Freedom.
- Thomas Carothers, "The Sequencing Fallacy," Journal of Democracy, 18, 1, Jan. 2007.
- Fukuyama, Carothers, Mansfield & Snyder, Berman, "The Debate on Sequencing," Journal of Democracy, 18, 3, July 2007.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE in class**Week 9: Nations and Democracy**

- Donald Horowitz, "Democracy in Divided Societies," Journal of Democracy, 4, 4, 1993.
- Robert Dahl, Polyarchy, pp. 105-121.
- Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition," in Amy Gutman ed., Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition.
- Robert Putnam, "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the 21st Century," Scandinavian Political Studies, 30, 2, June 2007.
- Henri Tajfel, "experiments in intergroup discrimination" Scientific American 1970.
<https://asfranthompson.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/tajfel-1970-experiments-in-intergroup-discrimination.pdf>
- Andrew Sullivan, "America Wasn't Built for Humans"
<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/09/can-democracy-survive-tribalism.html>
- Kenan Malik, "The Failure of Multiculturalism," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2015.
- Francis Fukuyama, "Against Identity Politics," Foreign Affairs, Sept/Oct. 2018.
- Michele Alexander, "None of us deserve citizenship," NYT, December 2018.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/21/opinion/sunday/immigration-border-policy-citizenship.html>

Optional:

- Jerry Muller, "Us and Them. The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2008.
- Responses to Muller by Habyarimana, Humphreys, Posner, Weinstein, Rosecrance, Stein and then Muller again, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008.

Week 10: (April 8): The State of Democracy Today

- Freedom House, "Freedom in the World 2018."
https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_FITW_Report_2018_Final_Single_Page.pdf
- Varieties of Democracy Report 2018, especially pages 16-30.
https://www.v-dem.net/media/filer_public/3f/19/3f19efc9-e25f-4356-b159-b5c0ec894115/v-dem_democracy_report_2018.pdf
- Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The Myth of Democratic Recession," Journal of Democracy, 26, 1, January 2015.
- Thomas Carothers, "The End of the Transitions Paradigm," Journal of Democracy, 13, 1, 2002.
- Larry Diamond, "The Liberal Democratic Order in Crisis."
<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2018/02/16/liberal-democratic-order-crisis/>
- Jason Brownlee, "The Limited Reach of Authoritarian Powers," Democratization, 24, 7, 2017.

SECOND ESSAYS HANDED OUT (due April 19 5pm to courseworks and me via email)

-Intros and outlines of papers must be emailed to me by 5pm Friday April 12.
Week 11 (April 15): Individual meetings to discuss intros and outlines of papers

Week 12 (April 22): Student Presentations and Democracy Theories

- Seymour Martin Lipset, Political Man, pp 31-53.
- Carlos Boix, "The Roots of Democracy," Policy Review, February/March 2006.
- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2009.
- Robert Putnam, "Democracy," in The Democracy Sourcebook, pp. 157-167.
- Robert Putnam, Making Democracy Work, chapters 4 and 6.
- Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone," Journal of Democracy, January 1995, Volume 6, Number 1.

Week 13 (April 29): Democratic Progress and Democratic Backsliding

- Essays by Schumpeter ("The Classical Doctrine of Democracy) and Diamond ("Defining and Developing Democracy") in The Democracy Sourcebook.
- Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, "Toward Consolidated Democracies," in Journal of Democracy, April 1996, 7, 2 (particularly pages 14-22, i.e. until section on "Two surmountable obstacles")
- Andreas Schedler, "What is Democratic Consolidation?" Journal of Democracy, April 1998, 9, 2.
- Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, How Democracies Die, Intro. and chaps 4 and 5.

-"The New Autocrats"

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/world/new-autocrats-europe/?utm_term=.bfde86659cbb

-Lucan Way and Steve Levitsky, "How autocrats can rig the game and damage Democracy," Washington Post, Monkey Cage, January 4, 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2019/01/04/how-do-you-know-when-a-democracy-has-slipped-over-into-autocracy/?utm_term=.78bb21c4c874&wpisrc=nl_cage&wpmm=1

Week 14 (May 6): Contemporary Causes of Democratic Decay

-Roberto Stefan Foa, “Modernization and Authoritarianism,” Journal of Democracy, 29, 3, July 2018.

-Yascha Mounk, The People vs. Democracy, part 2.

-Martin Sandbu, “The economic problem tearing countries apart,”

<https://www.ft.com/content/ab2f8a30-f47c-11e8-ae55-df4bf40f9d0d>

-Martin Wolf, “Inequality is a threat to our democracies”

<https://www.ft.com/content/47e3e014-e3ea-11e7-97e2-916d4fbac0da>

-Peter Beinart, “The new authoritarians are waging war on women”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/01/authoritarian-sexism-trump-duterte/576382/>

-Edourd Louis, “Why My Father Votes for Marine Le Pen”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/04/opinion/sunday/why-my-father-votes-for-marine-le-pen.html>

-Martin Eiermann, “Confronting Populist Anxieties” [Good summary of various views of populist voters]

<https://institute.global/insight/renewing-centre/populist-anxieties>

Read some selection of these on the American case:

- John Judis, “It’s the Economies, Stupid”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/magazine/wp/2018/11/29/feature/the-key-to-understanding-americas-red-blue-split-isnt-ideology-or-culture-its-economics/?utm_term=.eb9351c2ec80&wpisrc=nl_evening&wpmm=1

-Diana Mutz, “Status threat, not economic hardship explains the 2016 vote.”

<https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/115/19/E4330.full.pdf>

-German Lopez, “The past year of research has made it very clear: Trump won because of racial resentment”

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/12/15/16781222/trump-racism-economic-anxiety-study>

-Michael Tesler, “Views about race mattered more in electing Trump than in electing Obama”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/11/22/peoples-views-about-race-mattered-more-in-electing-trump-than-in-electing-obama/?utm_term=.45033f261969

-Ezra Klein, “How identity politics elected Donald Trump,”

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/11/5/18052390/trump-2018-2016-identity-politics-democrats-immigration-race>