Political Science G8493
Political Development
Wednesday 2:10-4 pm

Course Description: This is a graduate course in political development. It will focus on the development of, and relationship among, the three constituent features of the modern political world: states, nations and democracy.

The course will analyze both historical and contemporary cases, tracing how causal processes unfold over time and space and what past conditions and experiences lie behind today's political dynamics and problems. Along the way, the course will introduce students to the main approaches and schools of thought in the political development literature.

The course will encourage rigorous comparative thinking and writing and prepare students for general exams and dissertation work.

Requirements: Readings are extensive and must be done before each class. Each student will be required to write seven short papers (of 2-4 pages each) over the course of the term. These papers should engage the debates presented in the readings for the week. They should be thought pieces and will be used to help structure class discussions. They must be emailed to me by 12pm of the Monday before class. (Examples of what these papers should look like will be posted on the courseworks website.) The final project for the class will be a mock general exam in comparative politics. The short papers will count for 50% of the grade, class participation 20%, and the final project, 30%.

This course requires a lot of writing. If you do not feel comfortable writing a lot of papers, this is probably not the course for you.

Course Readings: Almost all readings are available via coursework. Some will also be put on reserve at Lehman library.
Week 1 (September 7): Introduction

Week 2 (September 14): Thinking about the State
- David Held, “The Development of the Modern State,” pages 57-73 (pages 73-87 can be read for week 2), in Stuart Hall et al., eds., Modernity.
- Gianfranco Poggi, The Development of the Modern State, chapter 1.
- North, Douglass C., John Joseph Wallis, and Barry R. Weingast, Violence and Social Orders, introduction and conclusion.

Week 3 (September 21): State Building I
- Joseph Strayer, On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State, esp. i.
- Charles Tilly, Coercion, Capital and European States, chaps. 1 and skim 3.
- Hendrik Spruyt, The Sovereign State and Its Competitors, chapters 1 and 2, at least skim 8 and 9.
- Philip Gorski The Disciplinary Revolution, Introduction, chapter 1, Conclusion.
- Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State, forward and chapter 1.

Week 4 (September 28): State Building II
- Jeffrey Herbst, States and Power in Africa, Intro., chapters. 1 and 9 (esp. 251-257).
- Catherine Boone, Political Topographies of the African State, chapters 1, 2, and 6.

- Jeff Herbst and Greg Mills, “There is No Congo,” Foreign Policy, online, March 2009.

Optional:
- Karen Barkey, Bandits and Bureaucrats. The Ottoman Route to State Centralization, chapters 1, 2 and 7.
Week 5 (October 5): Nationalism and Identity Formation I
-Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities, esp. pp. 1-46 (but you should really read the whole thing).
-Elie Kedourie, Nationalism, chapters 1-5, and the afterward.
-Ernest Gellner, Nationalism, especially pp. 1-30, the rest can be skimmed.
-Eric Hobsbawm, Nations and Nationalism since 1780, especially pp. 1-100.
-Andreas Wimmer, Nationalist Conflict and Ethnic Exclusion, chapter 3.
(If you are already familiar with these books/literature, you can use Hutchinson and Smith, eds., Nationalism: A Reader which has summary chapters by most of the above.)

Week 6 (October 12): Nationalism and Identity Formation II
-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.
-Partha Chatterjee, The Nation and its Fragments, chapters 1 and 11.
-Responses to Muller by Habyarimana, Humphreys, Posner, Weinstein, Rosecrance, Stein and then Muller again, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008.
Week 7 (October 19): The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy: Modernization Theory

- Daniel Lerner, The Passing of Traditional Society, chapters 1 and 2.
- Carlos Boix, Democracy and Redistribution, Introduction, chapters 1 and 7.

*Skim for the general idea:*


Optional:

- Thad Dunning, Crude Democracy, chapter 1.

Week 8 (October 26): The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy: Critiques of Modernization Theory

- Ralf Dahrendorf, Society and Democracy in Germany, chapters 1, 3, 4, 24.
- Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies, part 1 (esp. 1-59, 78-92).
- Andre Gunder Frank, Latin America: Underdevelopment or Revolution, pp. 3-17 or idem “The Development of Underdevelopment,” in Peter Klaren and Thomas Bossert, eds., The Promise of Underdevelopment, chap 6.
- Guillermo O’Donnell, Modernization and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism, chap. 2.


Week 9 (November 1): Barrington Moore

- Barrington Moore, The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, read at least chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, 9.
Week 10 (November 9): Culture and Democracy
- Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, The Civic Culture, chapters 1 and 15.

Week 11 (November 16): Civil Society and Democracy
- Amaney Jamal, Barriers to Democracy, Introduction and Conclusion.

Thanksgiving break!
Week 12 (November 30) Revolutions
- Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions, Introduction and Conclusion.
- Jeff Goodwin, No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, chapters 1, 2, 9.
- Jack Goldstone, ed. Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies, chapter 2 (Huntington and Tilly), chapter 5 (Goldstone).
- Theda Skocpol’s rejoinder are reprinted in Skocpol, ed., Social Revolutions in the Modern World, chapters, 7 and 8. If States and Social Revolutions was not clear to you, read chapter 4 in Social Revolutions for an excellent summary.

Week 13 (December 7): Globalization, the Nation-State and Democracy
- David Held and Anthony McGrew, The Global Transformations Reader, chapters 11 (Strange), 12 (Mann), 16 (Slaughter), 17 (Mathews), 23 (Tomlinson), and 29 (Gilpin).
- David Held, Global Covenant, chapter 4 (“Political Globalization”).
- T.V. Paul, G. John Ikenberry, and John Hall, eds., The Nation-State in Question, chapter 9 (Campbell) and conclusion (Ikenberry).