

POL 218H1S:
State, Society and Power in Comparative Perspective

Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

Administrative Details:

Term: Summer 2021, S Section

Lecture Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-6PM

Room: SS 1072

Tutorial Times and Location: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 3-4PM in BL 312

Teaching Assistants: TBD

Instructor: Cheng Xu

Email: cheng.xu@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the broad concepts and themes of comparative politics. It deepens students' understanding of how states are formed, the political forces that shape how they are organized, and how state power enhances or limits social mobilization. The approach partially draws on recent events and introduces concepts and theoretical tools to explain them. It links them to how comparative politics explains some of the most important political phenomena within countries. The course is not bound by any particular region, but instead uses examples from around the world. The focus remains, however, on politics within states, how the phenomena are similar or different from one place to the next. The core aims of the course include the following:

- Historical contexts of various paths of state formation
- Development of various regimes and their change
- Identity and modes of contention

Requirements:

Grading criteria for the course will be in the following areas:

1. **Participation and in class discussions (15%):** student-led discussion is critical to the success of a tutorials and group learning. To those ends, students will be assessed on their attendance, their level of participation, and their degree of preparation for in-class discussions.
2. **Course Papers (30% x 2 = 60%):** two 5-page, double-spaced papers that directly responds to the essay prompts by critically engaging with the required readings. Note that these papers should not be summaries of the theme's assigned readings; rather, they should develop theoretical, empirical, or methodological critiques of one or more theme's assigned readings and/or highlight new directions for future research on the topic. Papers are to be submitted on Quercus.
 - a. Paper 1: Covering the readings for Theme I; due: **11:59PM, Friday, July 22, 2022.**
 - b. Paper 2: Covering the readings for Theme II and III; due **11:59PM, Friday, Aug 12, 2022.**

3. **Take Home Exam (25%):** a cumulative take home final exam to be submitted online via the course's Quercus site. The final exam will consist of three exam questions that deal with each of the three themes covered throughout the course. The exam questions will be provided to the student students on **Monday, August 15, 2022** and students will have **one week** to submit their exam on Quercus **no later than 11:59PM EST, Monday, August 2022**. More details on the take-home final exam will be provided to students as we approach the examination period.

Policies:

Late or missed papers: Late papers will be penalized 5% per calendar day, excepting only extraordinary personal emergencies. If you find yourself in such a situation, please email me as soon as possible to inform me. Substantiating documentation will be required and must be submitted within one week of the missed due date. Note that assignments or tests from other courses scheduled for the same day do not constitute acceptable reasons—please plan accordingly. In the absence of substantiating documentation, late or missed assignments will receive a mark of zero.

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accessibility accommodations of any kind, please contact Accessibility Services at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a major academic offense and will be treated accordingly. Students are required to familiarize themselves with and conform to the University of Toronto's policies on Academic Honesty, available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/newstudents/transition/academic/plagiarism>. In addition, students should consult Margaret Proctor's guide on "How Not to Plagiarize," available at <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

Original: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Mental Health:

Students are highly encouraged to prioritize their own mental health over any individual assignments. If you find yourself becoming emotionally distressed or overwhelmed any time throughout the course, please do not hesitate to reach out to the instructor for help accessing mental health services. Additionally, a list of mental health resources will be posted for students on Quercus should they choose to access them confidentially.

Required Reading:

Quercus will be used to manage the course and readings. Specific and additional readings will be noted on the semester-specific schedules posted to Quercus.

Week 1, Session 1 (July 5): Course Overview and Introduction

No Readings

Theme 1: State Formation

Week 1, Session 2 (July 7): The Birth and Spread of the Modern State

Tilly, Charles. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back In*. Ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, 169-191 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

Spruyt, Hendrik. "The origins, development, and possible decline of the modern state." *Annual review of political science* 5, no. 1 (2002): 127-149.

Week 2, Session 1: Decolonization and its Long-term Consequences

Herbst, Jeffrey. "The Political Kingdom in Independent Africa." In *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*, 2nd Edition, 97-136 (Princeton University Press, 2014).

Lange, Matthew, James Mahoney, and Matthias Vom Hau. "Colonialism and development: A comparative analysis of Spanish and British colonies." *American Journal of Sociology* 111, no. 5 (2006): 1412-1462.

Week 2, Session 2: Revolutionary Paths

Goodwin, Jeff. *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001). Chapter 2, pp. 35-64.

Goodwin, Jeff, and Theda Skocpol. "Explaining revolutions in the contemporary Third World." *Politics & Society* 17, no. 4 (1989): 489-509.

Theme 2: Regimes

Week 3, Session 1: Democracies

Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971). Chapters 1-2 (pgs. 1-32)

Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. "What democracy is... and is not." *Journal of democracy* 2, no. 3 (1991): 75-88.

Week 3, Session 2: Authoritarianism

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). 3-36.

Linz, Juan. "Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes," in Greenstein and Polsby *Handbook of Political Science*, vol. 3.

Week 4, Session 1: Regime Change

Geddes, Barbara. "What do we know about democratization after twenty years?." *Annual review of political science* 2, no. 1 (1999): 115-144.

Bermeo, Nancy. "On democratic backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27, no. 1 (2016): 5-19.

Theme 3: Identities and Contention

Week 4, Session 2: Nationalism

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. Chap. 1 (p. 1-7), chap. 4-5 (pp. 39-62).

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Revised ed. New York: Verso. Chaps 1, 3-5, 7.

Week 5, Session 1: Ethnicity

Horowitz, Donald. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 1, pgs. 3-54.

Chandra, Kanchan. "What is ethnic identity and does it matter?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006): 397-424.

Week 5, Session 2: Social Movements

Tarrow, S. 1994. *Power in Movement: social movements, collective action and politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Introduction and Chapter 1).

Scott, Jim. "Everyday forms of peasant resistance." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 13, no. 2 (1986): 5-35.

Week 6, Session 1: Civil War

Walter, Barbara F. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization* 51, no. 3 (1997): 335-64.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. "The ontology of "political violence": action and identity in civil wars." *Perspectives on politics* 1, no. 3 (2003): 475-494.

Week 6, Session 2: Conclusion and Wrap-Up

No readings