This seminar examines dimensions of comparative politics that are beyond or below the state. Asking how social and political power interact, it considers how preferences, identities, and subjectivities are formed, 2) how they are mobilized through contentious politics, and 3) how they relate to state power across a wide range of historical and contemporary contexts.

The seminar is reading and discussion intensive. Students must cover the required readings for each session. The recommended readings complement the required readings and are there for anyone considering a dissertation on the topic.

Readings

*Main Readings:* Weekly readings are available via the U of T Library website. Where that is not possible (e.g., books that do not have a digital version), pdfs will be uploaded to Quercus.

Assignments

*Participation and Engagement (25%):* Our seminar depends on your preparation. You will be rewarded for the quality rather than in the length or frequency of your interventions. That said, silence provides no indication of how you are engaging with the literatures.

As a part of the participation mark, students are expected to post brief thoughts, reflections, and questions to a Quercus discussion thread in response to the week’s material. Please post by 11:59 pm on Monday, beginning with Week 2. Ask yourself: what are the major questions raised by the articles? What are the conclusions? Does the literature have any weaknesses? What’s missing? One-two paragraphs is sufficient.

*Critical Reaction Papers (25%).* Choose 5 weeks in which you write a critical reaction to the day’s material (avoiding summary). These should be 4 double-spaced pages, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins. If you exceed the length, I will send the paper back. The paper should be written in clear prose; strive for short sentences, eliminate adjectives, and use the active tense.

*Critical reaction papers are due by 14:00 on Monday and must cover that week’s readings.*

*Oral Presentation on Readings (10%):* Offer a short (5-7 minute) presentation that provokes discussion on the day’s topic. Do not read; instead, put together a talk that is organized and conceived as an oral presentation. You will be marked on the degree to which you: 1) provide stimulating questions/critiques
while minimizing summary; 2) consider interconnections among the assigned readings; 3) consider links
to other days’ readings; 4) integrate discussion of some additional readings into your presentation.

Please keep to your time. I will give you a two-minute warning and end the presentation when time is up,
even if you are in the middle of a sentence.

Critical Book Reviews: Write two critical book reviews of 10 pages double-spaced. Analyze the books,
which are (Marx excepted) historical and empirical in focus, in the light of at least one week’s readings
and theories. How well do these readings account for the material? Does anything need to be qualified or
added? In the light of the existing theoretical literature, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the
books? Does the empirical material necessitate revisions to theory?

Choose two of the following:

Christopher Phillips, the Syrian Civil War (Yale, 2020).
Carrie Rofesky Wickham, The Muslim Brotherhood: The Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Princeton,
2013).
Lane Windham, Knocking on Labor’s Economic Door: Union Organizing in the 1970s and the Roots of
a New Economic Divide (Chapel Hill, 2017).

Due dates: February 26, 11:59 pm and March 25, 11:59 pm. Submit to Quercus.

Course Policies

Email: Consult the syllabus and other course information before submitting inquiries by email and raise
any issues of general concern – course requirements, intellectual content of the readings – in class.

Keep copies: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their
assignments before submitting them. Keep them until the marked assignments have been returned.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further
clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at
http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html. This course uses anti-plagiarism software to deter
plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to
submission for textual similarity review to this software for the detection of plagiarism. All
submitted papers will be included as source documents in the digital reference database solely for
the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Extensions: On rare occasions, circumstances justify an extension. Requests are entertained up to 72
hours before the due date; after that, a doctors note is required.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require
accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit
http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility as soon as possible.
MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (January 9): Preferences, Interests, Identities


Recommended

Week 2 (January 16): Gender


Recommended


Week 3 (January 23): Sexuality


Recommended

Week 4 (January 30): Ethnicity

• Brubaker, Rogers. Ethnicity Without Groups, Boston, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004: Chaps 1, 2.
Week 5 (February 6): Race

- Thompson, Debra. The Schematic State. Cambridge University Press, 2016, Chapters 1-2, 1-49

Week 6 (February 13): Class


Recommended

Week 7 (February 27): Social Movements


Recommended
• Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow. Contentious Politics (2nd Edition), Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapters 1 and 2
Week 8 (March 5): Migrant Mobilization


Week 9 (March 12): Expulsion & dispossession

- Chatty, Dawn *Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East* (CUP, 2010), Chapter 5 (Palestinians).

Recommended

- Ahonen, Pertti et al., *People on the Move* (Berg, 2008)
- Landau, Loren, “The dual imperative in refugee research: some methodological and ethical considerations in social science research on forced migration,” *Disasters* 27 (2).
Week 10 (March 19): Violence


Recommended


Week 11 (March 26): State-Society Relations I


Recommended


**Week 12 (April 2): State-Society Relations II**


**Recommended**