Professor Nicholas C. Wheeler  
Office: SWKT 770  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9-10:30 AM, Friday 1:30-3 PM and by appointment  
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Course Description:  
The modern state is one of the key units of analysis for students of comparative politics and international relations and remains the predominant form of political organization in the world today. Moreover, U.S. state-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and European efforts to transform post-socialist states in East Central Europe demonstrate the salience of the issue for theorists and practitioners alike. In this course, we will examine the processes and pressures that led to the formation of centralized states in early modern Europe and then attempt to transport those same ideas and theories to other locales and time periods in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. We will also examine the transformation of the post-socialist states in East Central Europe as well as recent U.S. state-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.  

Requirements:  
All assigned readings listed on the schedule below are required. In order to effectively understand and synthesize the material in the course it is imperative that you come prepared to participate in each class session. Each week we will discuss the assigned readings in a seminar-format (not a lecture course) and therefore I expect that everyone will be prepared to contribute and discuss the readings/topics each class. Failure to adequately prepare or willingly contribute to our weekly discussions will limit your ability to comprehend and synthesize the class materials into your own original argument.  
The main goal for this course is to assist you in developing, articulating and presenting an original and innovative argument that fits within a broader theoretical debate in comparative politics. In short, this course will emphasize the importance of writing a clear and concise argument for a variety of different audiences and purposes and the assignments will assist you in this endeavor.  
First, you will be assigned to compile a theory journal that consists of entries that summarize each of the readings that are assigned in the course. These summaries are to consist of a one- or two-page summary of each book or article(s) that we will be discussing in class. You will be expected to address the author's main argument, weaknesses and strengths of the theoretical model and the case information as well
as the author's contribution to the state-building literature. This exercise will assist you in the development of your own research agenda, and provide a framework for asking the same questions of your own work. The theory journal will be turned in twice during the semester. (Due Sept. 29th and Nov. 29th)

The first formal assignment will be to write a short prospectus outlining your initial idea/topic and why it is relevant to the broader discussion of modern state formation. This assignment will include developing an original research question, a description of your data collection process, theoretical orientation and a preliminary bibliography. In short, this assignment is intended to assist you in developing a specific and cohesive research topic and a valuable exercise in preparation for graduate school. Examples of this type of work will be distributed in class. (Due Sept. 22nd)

Second, you will also be required to compose a review essay (addressing the class readings assigned as well as outside material) that addresses the literature that is relevant to your project and then present your review to the class. This review essay and oral presentation will assist you in developing a better understanding of the literature addressing your specific topic/region and assist you with developing your own theoretical contribution. (Due Oct. 11th)

Finally, you will be required to submit a paper detailing your research findings (consider this a draft of the main body of your paper). These papers will be reviewed by one of your classmates (I will make the peer review assignments) and myself. This assignment will require you to begin your research early and also allow me to assist you with project as it moves along, thus guaranteeing that you are not compiling new research the final week of the semester. (Due Nov. 15th)

The final research project should consist of 25-30 pages (double-spaced) and represent the best work of your career here in the department. It should consist of a brief review of the current literature in the context of your own original argument and research. While I encourage you to discuss your research topic with your classmates and myself over the course of the semester, this is not a group or collaborative project, but rather the work must be your own (see note below about academic integrity). I would also recommend that you consult the campus writing center if you need advice or assistance with structuring the paper. Please note that the final capstone paper must have a grade of at least a C- for the capstone to count towards the political science major. (Due Dec. 17th)

Grading (% of Overall Grade):

Theory Journal (10%) – Due September 29th and November 29th
Paper Research Proposal/Prospectus (15%) – Due September 22nd
Review Essay/Presentation (15%) – Due October 11th (Presentation TBD)
Findings Paper and Peer Comments (15%) – Due November 15th (Peer Comments due November 17th)
Final Research Project (40%) – Due December 17th @ 5PM
Class Attendance and Participation (5%)

Academic Integrity:

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty are found at http://honorcode.byu.edu/content/academic-honesty-details.

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

All students in this class are expected to adhere to the University’s Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy. The availability and convenience of accessing information electronically has transformed the study of political phenomena but also requires more diligence on the part of scholars/students producing such work. Therefore, I consider it important to clarify the course policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Students must completely and unambiguously cite the sources that they use or draw upon in developing new ideas, theories and explanations that they present to their peers and the broader scholarly community (including this class). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course and notification will be given to the University’s Honor Code Office. In addition, other forms of academic misconduct (cheating, fabrication of material, etc.) outlined in the Academic Honesty Policy will also result in a possible failing grade for the assignment or course. If you have any concerns or remaining doubts regarding the different forms of academic misconduct please come and discuss them with me.
Research and Scholarly Work:

Since this is a capstone course I have certain expectations about the type of research and written work that you complete for the course. Each of you will be conducting research and writing a 25-30 page capstone paper this semester. I would encourage you to select a topic/country early on in the course and begin to conduct your research. Keep in mind that online sources such as Wikipedia, about.com, online blogs, twitter feeds, etc. are not typically considered academic sources and are not sufficient for you to use in conducting scholarly research. They may be useful starting points for your work but DO NOT attempt to cite those types of sources as scholarly work that supports your arguments. If you have questions about conducting research or where to look for sources on your topic, please come talk to me and I will be happy to provide assistance.

Class Conduct:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to an administrative official and contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Special Assistance:

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Required Texts:

There are seven required texts for this course and all are available at the BYU bookstore.


All other texts listed will be available via databases located through the Library’s website (i.e. JSTOR, EBSCOHOST, etc.) and the class website on Blackboard.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule (Subject to Change):**

8/30- Introduction and Class Overview

No Assigned Reading

**Section I: Concepts and Theories**

9/1- Understanding Society, Power and the State

**Assigned Readings:**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Ch. 13, 14, 17, 18, 29, 30


9/6- Labor Day Holiday (No class)

9/8- What is the State?

**Assigned Readings:**

Francis Fukuyama, State-Building: Governance and World Order in the 21st Century, (Cornell University Press, 2004), Ch. 1

Atul Kohli, State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery, (Cambridge University Press, 2004), Ch. 1

9/13- Studying the State

Assigned Readings:


Section II: The Rise of the Modern State in Europe

9/15- Explaining the Rise of the European State

Assigned Readings:

Hendrik Spruyt, The Sovereign State and Its Competitors, (Princeton University Press,) Ch. 1-2


Phillip Gorski, The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe, Ch. 1, 3

9/15- No Class (Research/Writing Day)

9/20- Patterns of Development in Europe

Assigned Readings:

Charles Tilly, Coercion, Capital and European States, (Blackwell Publishing, 1992), Ch. 3-4

Thomas Ertman, *Birth of the Leviathan*, (Cambridge University Press, 1997), Ch. 1, 4 (skim chapter on Britain)

**9/22- Understanding European Nation-States**

*Research Proposal/Prospectus Due*

**Assigned Readings:**

Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital and European States*, (Blackwell Publishing, 1992), Ch. 5-6

Daniel Ziblatt, *Structuring the State: The Formation of Germany and Italy and the Puzzle of Federalism*, Ch. 1-2

**Section III- Rise of States Outside of Europe**

**9/27- Examining the Role of War in Latin American States**

**Assigned Readings:**


**9/29- Economic and Political Development in Latin America**

*Theory Journal Due*

**Assigned Readings:**

Terry Lynn Karl, *The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States*, (University of California Press, 1997), Ch. 1-4


**10/04- Understanding Latin American States (Brazil Case Study)**

**Assigned Readings:**

Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*, (Cambridge University Press, 2004), Ch. 4-5

**10/06- Modern States in Africa**

**Assigned Readings:**

Crawford Young, *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, (Yale University Press) Ch. 2-3


**10/11- Explaining the Development of the African State**

*Review Essay Due*

**Assigned Readings:**


Catherine Boone, *Political Topographies of the African State*, (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Ch. 2

**10/13- Challenges Facing African States Today (Nigeria Case Study)**

**Assigned Readings:**


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*, (Cambridge University Press, 2004), Ch. 8-9

**10/18- Political Development of the Middle East**

**Assigned Readings:**


Karen Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization*, TBA.
10/20- Economic Development of Middle Eastern States

Assigned Readings:

David Waldner, *State-Building and Late Development* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1999), Ch. 2, 4

10/25- Examining Developments in Middle Eastern States (Iran Case Study)

Assigned Readings:


10/27- No class (Library Research Day)

11/1- Political Development in Asia

Assigned Readings:

Dan Slater, *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*, (Cambridge University Press, 2010), Ch. 1-3

11/3- Economic Development and State-building in Asia

Assigned Readings:

Vivek Chibber, *Locked in Place: State-Building and Late Industrialization in India*, (Princeton University Press), Ch. 2-4


11/8- Modernization and the Asian State (Chinese Case Study)

Assigned Readings:

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, (Cambridge University Press), pg. 236-281.

Section IV- Rebuilding States in a Globalized World

11/10- Reconstructing the Post-Socialist State
**Assigned Readings:**


Vadim Volkov, *Violent Entrepreneurs: The Use of Force in the Making of Russian Capitalism*, (Cornell University Press, 2002), Ch. 6

11/15- Explaining Differences between Post-Socialist European States  
*Findings Paper Due*

**Assigned Readings:**


Conor O'Dwyer, *Runaway State-Building*, (Johns Hopkins University Press), Ch. 2

11/17- Examining State Failure

**Assigned Readings:**


Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States*, (Oxford University Press), Introduction and Ch. 1-4

11/22- No Class (Research/Writing Day)

11/24- No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

11/29- State Failure and Foreign Aid  
*Theory Journal Due*

**Assigned Readings:**


12/1- Challenges of International State-Building

Assigned Readings:


Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World, (Oxford University Press, 2008), Ch. 8-9, Conclusion

12/6- U.S. State-building Attempts in Iraq and Afghanistan

Assigned Readings:


12/8- Globalization and the Modern State/Conclusion

Assigned Readings:


Research Papers Due- 5 PM, December 17th in Political Science Department Office