

The Ohio State University
Autumn 2013 (21 August – 3 December)
W/F 9:35-10:55am
Campbell Hall 0309

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Office hours: W/F 11:30am-1:00pm
(or by appointment)

PS 1200

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Politically-natured (or charged?) conversations are ubiquitous these days, from appearances at coffee-shops and during dinner-conversations to talking-heads' favourite subjects on radio and television. To understand politics, however, is to understand the central institution in all modern societies: the state. The CQ Press Encyclopedia of Political Science defines the state in the following manner:

“A state is a set of institutions and specialised personnel that regulates important aspects of the life of a territorially bounded population and extracts resources from that population through taxation. Its regulations are backed by force if necessary. It is recognised internationally as a state by other similarly constituted states.”¹

Yet understanding the nature of the state is not sufficient—today, the modern state faces a variety of serious challenges. Globalisation has affected the international community such that no one state can survive in *complete* isolation (even North Korea!). Nationalism and ethnic divides threaten the integrity of states and their relationships with others, and have even led to the break-up of states that once were (e.g., Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Sudan). Terrorism is an ever-present concern for existing states—and yet, could it be that one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter? Meanwhile, organised crime finds its way among the top concerns of the modern state, though perhaps less visibly, challenging the state's authority and legitimacy.

This course will explore the development and dynamics of the state and its components, as well as the challenges that modern states face today, utilising comparisons of different states across the globe ranging from the United States to Zimbabwe. The materials and lectures are designed to introduce students to the relevant dialogues and questions of comparative politics, all the while encouraging critical thinking and analytical skills.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Participation	10%
2. Reading Quizzes	20%
3. Mid-term Exam 1	20%
4. Mid-term Exam 2	20%
5. Cumulative Final Exam	30%

¹ "State, The." In *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by George Thomas Kurian. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011. http://library.cqpress.com/teps/encyps_1594.1.

Participation:

Class sessions will involve lectures covering material from the assigned reading, along with discussions of material not explicitly found in the reading. Discussion is critical to facilitating a learning environment, and students who actively participate in class will be rewarded.

Reading Quizzes:

Being on top of the reading assignments outside of class is important to facilitating a fruitful discussion in class. Short quizzes will be given each week during which there are readings assigned. Assigned readings will average around 30-60 pages per week.

Mid-term Exams:

These exams will cover all material from each respective part of the class (parts 1 and 2, non-cumulatively).

Cumulative Final Exam:

This exam will cover material from the entire course (readings and lectures), from the first day through the last. However, it will lean slightly more towards covering material from the third part of the course.

Note regarding exams:

There are *no* make-up exams. I will only make exceptions for those with medical or family emergencies for which satisfactory documentation is provided. Thus, by signing up for this course, you agree that it is your responsibility to adjust your schedule and commitments to accommodate the schedule of exams. In the event that a make-up exam is merited, I am flexible, and any appointments can be worked out in advance. Once an appointment has been made, however, please stick to it—there are *especially no make-ups for make-ups*, so do not be late or miss the appointment.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the standard OSU grading scheme:

93.00 – 100	A	80.00 – 82.99	B-	67.00 – 69.99	D+
90.00 – 92.99	A-	77.00 – 79.99	C+	60.00 – 66.66	D
87.00 – 89.99	B+	73.00 – 76.99	C	0 – 59.99	E
83.00 – 86.99	B	70.00 – 72.99	C-		

Academic misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

GEC

This course fulfills General Education requirements in Social Science (Organisations and Politics) and Global Studies.

Social Science: Organisations and Politics

Goals:

Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Global Studies

Goals:

Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.
2. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.

3. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Course Materials and Format

All materials besides the required textbook will be available on Carmen, or through links provided in this syllabus.

Required textbook:

- Hislope, Robert, and Anthony Mughan. 2012. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: The State and its Challenges*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - ISBN: 978-0-521-75838-3

This book may be purchased from the OSU bookstore or online. All readings on the syllabus from this source will *not* be posted on Carmen. The textbook will hereon be referred to as “Hislope and Mughan” in the syllabus.

Format:

Lectures and class discussions are designed to complement the readings assigned in this course, but neither can totally substitute for the other. Thus, you will get the most out of this class by completing reading assignments before the first session of each week and by attending all the lectures. The readings for this course average roughly 30-60 pages per week, with the totals varying from week to week depending on the topic.

Some of the scholarly articles and book chapters within topics present opposing and conflicting arguments. It is thus important to read actively and critically—more often than not there is no “Truth with a capital-T” or guaranteed correct answer to questions we might have. Part of the objective of this course is for you to take in different views and be able to critically evaluate competing arguments.

While I will not formally take attendance, there will be weekly reading quizzes (as indicated above) and occasional in-class activities that relate to material covered for that week or that topic. Thus, besides keeping up with the readings and lectures, consistent attendance is strongly recommended for you to get the most out of this class.

Finally, I am always available to answer questions or discuss any course-related material with you—if you would like to reach me outside of class or office hours, please email me. I am generally pretty good about responding, but if I am too slow, please feel free to send me reminders! If you have a question about the course in general, *please consult the syllabus and Carmen first*.

Schedule of lectures and required readings

As instructor, I reserve the right to alter the schedule or reading assignments, with due notice.

PART I: WHAT IS THE STATE?

Week 1: August 21 – Syllabus and introduction to the course

Week 1: August 23 – The Modern State

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 1 – 15)
 - The significance of the modern state
 - What is the state
- Additional Readings
 - Economist. 2011. “Taming Leviathan.” From the Print Edition, 17 March 2011, accessible at <<http://www.economist.com/node/18359896>>

Week 2: August 28, 30 – The Modern State

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 15 – 29)
 - Monopoly of the Means of Violence
 - Territory
 - Origins and development of the state
 - Why compare?
 - Looking back and forward
- Additional readings
 - Englebert, Pierre. “To Save Africa, Reject its Nations.” *The New York Times*, (June 11, 2010).
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/12/opinion/12englebert.html>>
 - Whitney, Craig R. “Why is Monaco a Country?” *The New York Times*, (April 10, 2005).
<<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9906E3DD153EF933A25757C0A9639C8B63>>

Week 3: September 4, 6 – States and Politics

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 30 – 42)
 - What is Politics?
 - States, regimes, and Governments
- Additional Readings
 - Lasswell, Harold D. 1958. *Politics: Who gets what, when, how*. New York: Meridian Books. Chapter 1, “Elite,” pp. 13-27.

Week 4: September 11, 13 – States and Politics cont’d

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 42 – 61)
 - Regime-Types: Democracy
 - Regime-Types: Authoritarianism
 - Regime-Types: Totalitarianism
 - Comparing Strong, Weak, and Failed States

- Additional Readings
 - Schmitter, Philippe C., and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88.
 - Linz, Juan J. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Chapter 1, pp. 49-63.

Week 5: September 18 – First Mid-term Review Session

Week 5: September 20 – First Mid-term Exam

PART II: STATES AND GOVERNANCE

Week 6: September 25, 27 – How Governments Work

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 62 – 93)
 - What is government?
 - Rules of governance
 - Structures of Governance
 - Separation of Powers: Democratic Governance
 - Separation of Powers: Authoritarian Governance
 - Conclusion
- Additional readings
 - Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-576.
 - Hildebrant, Timothy. 2009. "Beyond nomenclature: Authoritarian governance in a democratic world." *Edward Friedman Festschrift, presented at the University of Toronto, October, 24, 2004*.

Week 7: October 2, 4 – Frameworks of Governance

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 94 – 133)
 - Political Institutions
 - Authoritarian Frameworks of Governance
 - Democratic Frameworks of Governance
 - Theory of Bicameralism
 - Presidential vs. Parliamentary Government
 - Majoritarian vs. Proportional Electoral Systems
 - Consensual and Majoritarian Democracies
 - Conclusion
- Additional Reading?
 - Gunther, Richard, and Anthony Mughan. 1993. "Political Institutions and Cleavage Management," pp. 272-301 in R. Kent Weaver and Bert Rockman (Eds.), *Do Institutions Matter?* Washington, DC: Brookings Institute.

Week 8: October 9, 11 – Linkage/Representation

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 134 – 160)
 - Mechanisms of intermediation
 - Elections
 - Political parties
 - Continued centrality of parties
- Additional Reading
 - Dahl, Robert A. 2005. “What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?” *Political Science Quarterly* 120(2): 187-197.
 - Gandhi, Jennifer, and Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. “Elections under Authoritarianism.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403-422.

Week 9: October 16 – Linkage/Representation

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 160 – 170)
 - Interest Groups
 - Conclusion
- Additional Reading
 - Economist. 1999. “Politics Brief: Ex uno, plures.” From the print edition, 19 August 1999, accessible at <<http://www.economist.com/node/233442>>
- Review for Second Mid-term Exam

Week 9: October 18 – Second Mid-term Exam

PART III: CHALLENGES TO THE STATE

Week 10: October 23, 25 - Globalisation

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 171 – 204)
 - Background to globalisation
 - The four waves of globalisation
 - Dimensions of globalisation
 - Globalisation and the State
 - The state pushes back
 - The people push back
 - Conclusion
- Additional reading
 - Barber, Benjamin R. 2000. “Can Democracy Survive Globalization?” *Government and Opposition* 35(3): 275-301.

Week 11: October 30, November 1 – Ethnic Nationalism

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 205 – 235)
 - The post-Cold War acceleration of ethnic conflict
 - The power of ethnic identities and forms of nationalism
 - Form of nationalism: civic and ethnic
 - Politicised ethnicity and the challenges for democracy and the state

- States and ethnic groups: challenges and solutions
- Conclusion
- Additional reading
 - Connor, Walker. 1994. "A Nation is a Nation, is a State, is an Ethnic Group, is a . . ." pp. 36-46 in John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith (Eds.), *Nationalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Chua, Amy. 2003, September 21. "An Explosive Combination." *Orlando Sentinel*. Retrieved from http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2003-09-21/news/0309200007_1_democracy-free-markets-chinese.

Week 12: November 6, 8 – Terrorism

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 236 – 264)
 - How do you know a terrorist when you see one?
 - Terrorists versus guerillas
 - The thresholds of terrorism
 - States and terrorism
 - State versus terrorism, round 1
 - State versus terrorism, round 2
 - Conclusion
- Additional reading
 - Friedlander, Robert A. 1981. "Terrorism and National Liberation Movements: Can Rights Derive from Wrongs?" *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 13(2): 281-289.
 - Kittrie, Nicholas, N. 1981. "Patriots and Terrorists: Reconciling Human Rights with World Order." *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 13(2): 291-305.

Week 13: November 13, 15 – Organised Crime

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 265 – 294)
 - Contemporary Significance of Organised Crime
 - Organisation of Organised Crime: from Man of Honor to Criminal Entrepreneur
 - Contours of the Political-Criminal Nexus
 - Conclusion
- Additional reading
 - Makarenko, Tamara. 2004. "The Crime-Terror Continuum: Tracing the Interplay between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism." *Global Crime* 6(1): 129-145.
 - Naím, Moisés. 2012. "Mafia States: Organized Crime Takes Office." *Foreign Affairs* 91(3): 100-111.

Week 14: November 20 – Reflections: Challenges to the State

- Hislope and Mughan (pp 295 – 304)
 - Conclusion, Chapter 10

- Additional reading
 - Fukuyama, Francis. 2004. "The Imperative of State-building." *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 17-31.

Week 14: November 22

- Review for the Final
- Concluding Remarks

November 27, 29 – No Class (Thanksgiving long weekend)

Final Exam: Friday, December 6, 8:00am – 9:45am, Campbell Hall 0309