Ph.D./M.A. Program in Political Science  
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

P SC 87800  Comparative Political Orders

Spring Semester 2012

Professor Susan L. Woodward  Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Office Hours: Mondays 5:00-6:15 pm  Seminar Room 5383

Course Description
This seminar has two goals: (1) to give students an opportunity to develop a research project in comparative politics, with assistance on how to conceptualize and research it, and (2) to take advantage of a resurgence of interest in, but questioning about, the state, both in scholarship and in practice, as the empirically dominant and normatively preferred form of contemporary political order (based on the historical model of European state formation) -- to place it in a larger context of variation in types of political order. The second goal need not determine the first: students are free to choose a topic of their own interest while examining, in parallel, the literature for the course.

Requirements and Grading
There are four requirements for this seminar:
(1) participation in class on the readings for the week, actively and critically;
(2) a one-page, typed summary of the issues/theories of the readings for each week and at least one critical question you have of the readings or that you think the readings raise, due in class on the day of those readings;
(3) an outline of the eventual research paper, with its components identified (to be discussed further in class), due March 21 in class; and
(4) the eventual research paper, typed, double-spaced, and due, in my mail box, either physically at the GC or electronically in my email, on May 23, at 5:00 p.m.

The final grade will be a composite of these four: 25% for each of (1) and (2); 10% for (3); and 40% for (4), with due attention to progress over the semester.

It is important for you to know that I do not accept late writing assignments. Clearly there are some legitimate excuses – medical or family emergency – but they must be documented. This is a very difficult requirement for some, not to speak of for me to enforce, but part of graduate education is socialization, and the world out there professionally does not accept late submissions, so it is very important for you to learn how to deal with this psychologically (that you want to keep working on something to make it “better”) as well as administratively (that to meet deadlines, one has to plan).

Reading Assignments and Books
The readings for this course will be largely journal articles or book chapters that you will find through the online journals of the library or on Blackboard. A hard copy of
each book is on reserve at the library. This system applies only to the required readings, except for a few recommended readings that might be difficult to find and, thus, are also placed on Blackboard. Course documents in Blackboard are organized into folders by weeks in the syllabus. Where portions of a book are assigned, but the library does not yet own the book (it will have been ordered), those pages will also be placed on Blackboard.

The following books which you will read entirely or in substantial parts would be well worth purchasing; I recommend using the Amazon link on the Mina Rees Library page because purchase through Amazon on that link contributes a portion of the sale to our library, and for that reason, have not given a local bookstore any order.

Mary Callahan (2003), Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma (Cornell University Press).

You may also want to own:
James Mahoney (2010), Colonialism and Post-Colonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective (Cambridge University Press).

Seminar Schedule

February 1 Introduction

February 8 Identifying the puzzle

Antonio Giustozzi, “Afghanistan: Transition without End,” Crisis States Research Center (CSRC) Working Paper (WP) 40 (November 2008); (on BB and available at:

**Recommended:**
Quentin Skinner, “How we acquired the concept of the state (and what concept(s) we acquired),” unpub. ms. [n.d.] (available from Prof. Woodward).
Ernst Kantorowicz (1957), *The King’s Two Bodies* (Princeton UP)  

**February 15**  
Alternative conceptual and/or theoretical approaches


**Recommended:**

**February 22**  
Studying variation


Charles Tilly (1984), *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons* (Russell Sage), chs. 7-9 (pp. 116-47).


**Recommended:**


Charles Tilly (1984), *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons* (Russell Sage)


John Gerring (2001), *Social Science Methodology: Tasks, Strategies, Criteria* (CUP)

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett (2005), *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences.*


**February 29**

**Empire**

Karen Barkey (2008), *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*, Part I (pp. 1-191) and introduction to Part II (pp.193-6).


**Recommended:**

S.N. Eisenstadt (1963), *The Political System of Empires.*
March 7    State Formation: the role of war and violence

Miguel Angel Centeno (2002), Blood and Debt: War and the Nation-State in Latin America, chapters 1 and 6 (pp. 1-33, 261-280).
Steven Heydemann, ed. (2000), War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East, chapter 1 (pp. 1-30).
Mary Callahan (2003), Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma, preface (xi-xvi); introduction (1-20); epilogue (207-228), and if at all possible, chapters 5-7 (pp. 145-206).

Recommended:
Alex de Waal, “Analyzing the ‘Political Marketplace’,” unpub. memorandum (on BB).
Thomas Ertman (1997), Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe, chapter 1 (1-34).
Victoria Tin-bor Hui (2005), War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe.
Steven Heydemann, ed. (2000), War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East.

March 14    State Formation: bargaining/negotiation/contention; commerce; culture, social bases.

And discussion of research paper topics

Karen Barkey (1994), Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization, chs. 1 and 7 (pp. 1-23; 229-42).


Recommended:
Sidney Tarrow (forthcoming), War, Rights, and Contention: A Comparative Historical Study, introduction (in manuscript).
Perry Anderson (1974), Lineages of the Absolutist State (Verso)
Margaret Levi (1989), Of Rule and Revenue (University of California Berkeley)

March 21 The State: the issue of territoriality

Jeffrey Herbst (2000), States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control, chs. 1 and 9 (pp. 11-31, 251-272); recommend: ch. 2 (35-57).
Zachariah Cherian Mampilly (2011), Rebel Rulers: Insurgent Governance and Civilian Life during War, Cornell UP, chapters 1-3, 7 (pp. 1-92, 209-230)
Catherine Boone (2003), Political Topographies of the African State: Territorial Authority and Institutional Choice, introduction, chs. 1-2, and conclusion (pp. 1-42, 318-352).

Recommended:
Justin V. Hastings (2010), No Man’s Land: Globalization, Territory, and Clandestine Groups in Southeast Asia (Cornell UP).

March 28 The State: the issue of legitimation


Recommended:


**April 4**  
Colonialism and Consequences

James Mahoney (2010), *Colonialism and Post-Colonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective*, chapters 1 and 8 (pp. 1-34; 253-70); consider also reading chapter 5 on the role of warfare (pp. 189-201), even better, the entire book.


Recommended:

SPRING RECESS

**April 18**  
Authoritarian regimes I

Jeffrey A. Winters (2011), *Oligarchy*, chapters 1, 4-6 (pp. 1-39, 135-285).

Recommended:

**April 25**  
Authoritarian regimes II

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism*, ch. 1 (pp. 3-36).


Recommended:


Peter M. R. Stirk (2009), *The Politics of Military Occupation* (Edinburgh UP)

May 2

Clientelism, Federalism, Hansa, EU, Confederation


Recommended:


May 9  Class Presentations