FALL 2022
THE PH.D PROGRAM IN HISTORY OF THE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
HISTORY 71000
The Birth of the Modern European State, 1400—1815.

Instructor: Barbara Ann Naddeo
Class Days/Times: M, 6:30--8:30 p.m.
Office Hours: per class schedule and by appointment
Room: TBD
Please email to determine modality or place of appointment.
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Course Description: What is a sovereign state, and when did it arise in European history? How have major scholars accounted for its origins and nature? And has history borne out their hypotheses? To answer these questions this course engages landmark readings about the “state” by legendary social scientists from Weber to Foucault and case studies of its genesis and development by prominent historians of Europe and its colonial empires, from 1400--1815.

Modality and Format of Meetings: This course will meet in person and is designed as a seminar. Therefore, in-person attendance is required. It is also expected that students will carefully read the works assigned prior to the date of their discussion and contribute to the intellectual life of the group by politely sharing their thoughts and questions with the class, as well as attentively listening to those of their peers.

Readings: This course makes extensive use of online resources available to us through electronic book collections at the GC and the NYPL. Therefore, students should familiarize themselves with how to access those collections at the GC and the NYPL, as well as ensure that their login credentials at both those institutions are functional. (Students who do not have an NYPL card should acquire one, or familiarize themselves with the holdings of the CUNY Library system, whose books at other institutions can be ordered for delivery to the GC.) The few sources that are not available to us through electronic collections at either the GC or the NYPL are often available through the CUNY Library system for loan: those books may be borrowed either through the CUNY Library system or from the reserve desk in Mina Rees for one day. While it is highly recommended that students acquire some of the classics for this course, it should be possible to complete most of our readings by using the electronic collections of the GC and the NYPL together with the resources of the CUNY Library system.

Assignments: Beyond regular attendance and participation, this course requires the completion of 5 250-word responses to a single required reading for 5 weekly topics and a 12-15 page (3000-3500 word) paper on one of the topics considered in this seminar. Responses are due by class time. Paper-topics pertaining to the readings for class discussion will be provided. In consultation with the instructor, however, students may design their own topics. Student topics should be proposed in writing and must be approved by the instructor. All final papers will reconstruct the historiographical debate about a topic pertinent to the state that treats four to five books, or their equivalent, at least one of which will supplement the readings assigned for class discussion. For most topics, suggestions for supplementary
readings may be found on the syllabus under the “further(optional)” category. Papers are due on the last day of class, or 15 May. At that last meeting students will present the supplementary reading(s) discussed in their papers. All written work must be uploaded to BB under Assignments. Presentations will be factored into the participation grade.

**Final Grades:** Final grades will be based upon the following: Attendance and In-class Participation (20%), 5 Reponses (20%), and Final Paper (60%). Regular in-person attendance and participation are expected, unless excused for a documentable sickness or a family emergency. All work must be original and uphold the University’s academic standards. All work must be received by the last day of class, 15 May.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**UNIT ONE: SOME LANDMARK REFLECTIONS ON “SOVEREIGNTY,” THE “STATE,” AND “TERRITORY.”**

**Class One, Monday, 30 January:** Introduction to the Course.

**Class Two, Monday, 6 February. Of “Territory,” the “State” and “Sovereignty.”**

**Readings for Class Discussion:** Stuart Elden, *The Birth of Territory* (Chicago, 2013), ch. 7. (GC Mina Rees Reserve: On Order; NYPL, e-book: https://browse.nypl.org/iii/encore/home?lang=eng&suite=def&advancedSearch=true&searchString=ii&ivts=aa7NuVwUpNJRNCR4wEzGiQ%3D%3D&casts=HDWm3Bi1aWGS9jh9vFyBSQ%3D%3D

AND the readings on either the “state” or “sovereignty”:


OR


Class Five, Monday, 6 March. The Classics of Historical Sociology on State Formation.

Background (Optional): Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State (Verso, 1974; 2013), chs. 1-2 and 4-5. (NYPL, e-book: https://browse.nypl.org/iii/encore/home?lang=eng&suite=def&advancedSearch=true&searchString=&ivts=aa7nuwvue2g6brn5s4w2ivw4&casts=HDWm3Bi1aWG59Jh9vFYBSQ%3D%3D)

UNIT THREE: THE BIRTH OF THE TERRITORIAL STATE IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE.

Class Six, Monday, 13 March. The Medieval Kingdom and the Origins of the State.


Otto von Gierke, *Political Theories of the Middle Ages* (CUP, 1900), pp. 1 (p. 87 of PDF)-100 (p. 186 of PDF). (GC: https://cuny-gc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_GC/u14hg7/cdi_hathitrust_hathifiles_mdp_49015000219718)


Class Seven, Monday, 20 March. The State’s Two Bodies?


Ernst Kantorowicz, *Frederick II, 1194—1250* (1st ed., 1931), ch. 5. (GC, Mina Rees: DD151 .K33; and 8-9 other CUNY libraries, including CCNY, Cohen Reserve: DD151 .K33 1957 and NYPL: paper, or purchase)

Samantha Kelly, *Robert the Wise* (Brill, 2003), ch. 4 “Justice.” (ILL)

Marta Van Landingham, *Transforming the State: King, Court and Political Culture in the Realms of Aragon, 1213—1387* (Brill, 2002), ch.3 on “The King’s Law,” ch. 5 on “Royal Finances and Financial Administration,” and ch. 6 on “The Creation of Central Financial Offices.” (NYPL: paper)

Alan Ryder, *The Kingdom of Naples under Alfonso the Magnanimous* (Oxford, 1976), chs.4-6. (NYPL: paper, or purchase)


Class Eight, Monday, 27 March. The Republican City-State.


Class Nine, Monday, 3 April. The Rise of the Principality.


UNIT FOUR. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN STATE IN THE 17th—18th CENTURIES.

Class Ten, Monday, 17 April. The British Military-Fiscal State and Empire.


**Readings for Class Discussion:** Michael J. Braddick, *State Formation in Early Modern England.* (CUP, 2000), chs. 1 and 4-6. (GC: https://cuny-gc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_GC/15fl2fe/alma991014142169706121) OR


Further (Optional): Brewer, “Revisiting the Sinews of Power” in Aaron Graham and Patrick Walsh, eds., *The British Fiscal Military States* (Routledge, 2016), and the rebuttal by Pincus and Robinson (available in the public domain). (NYPL: JFE 16-7326, or ILL)
Christopher Storrs, ed. *The Fiscal-Military State in Eighteenth-Century Europe* (Ashgate, 2009), with an important contribution by Hamish Scott on international rivalry. (CUNY: 1 library; ILL)


Any other narrative of your choice on British imperialism and the state.

**Class Eleven, Monday 24 April. The French Information State.**


**Readings for Class Discussion:** Jacob Soll, *The Information Master* (Michigan, 2009), chs. 1-2, 5 and 8. (GC: https://cuny-gc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_GC/15fl2fe/alma9994288179106140)

OR


**Class Twelve, Monday, 1 May. The Bankruptcy of French Absolutism: Following the Money.**

Readings for Class Discussion: J.F. Bosher, *French Finances, 1770—1795*, (CUP, 1971), chs. 3-6 and 8, 10—11. (GC, Mina Rees Reserves: HJ1079 .B63 and 8 other CUNY libraries; NYPL: paper) OR


Class Thirteen, Monday 8 May. The Revolutionary State, Territory and the New International Order.

Background (Optional):


Michael Rowe, *From Reich to State: The Rhineland in the Revolutionary Age, 1780—1830*. (CUP, 2003) (1 CUNY Library)


Class Fourteen, Monday, 15 May: FINAL PAPERS DUE!!! IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS OF PAPERS.