

The University of Western Ontario
Political Science 3351E

Theories of the State

Fall 2011-Winter 2012

Instructor, Fall Term:	Verónica Schild	Classes:	Thursdays, 12:30pm -2:30 pm
Office:	SSC 4166		
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Course Outline

What is the nature and role of the state is a question that has preoccupied political theorists and analysts for some time. The major concern of the first half of the course is the relationship between power and modern states. The view that the state is a benign or neutral arena for the representation of interests has been challenged by Critical Pluralist, Marxist, Neo-marxist and Feminist theory. Moreover, the confidence with which the concept of the modern state, rooted in European historical developments, has been naturalized and assumed to be universally applicable is undermined by the recalcitrant experiences of post-colonial states. More recently, this confidence has also been tested by processes associated with globalization and neoliberalism. These challenges in addition to innovative theoretical approaches that treat culture as foundational, have led to a shift in the conditions for studying the nature and role of the state. The very status of the state as a discrete object, and the nature of power in relation to the state, have been questioned. As a result, approaches have become more modest, centering rather on how we study rule and forms of power as mundane processes which are spatialized and historicized.

Objectives: This first half of the course provides an introduction to some key twentieth century theories of the modern state and power and examines recent challenges posed by post-structuralist and post-colonial thought.

Format: The format of this course is seminar discussion plus mini-lectures by the Professor. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions. Keeping up with assignments (readings and journal writing) is therefore essential.

Evaluation for First Term: The final grade for the first half of this course will be determined as follows:

Class participation	15%
Journal Writing	15%
One research essay (15 pages):	40%
Final take-home exam	30%

1. Participation: Students are responsible for briefly introducing the weekly **topics** (not summarizing readings!). Everyone is expected to discuss the readings and issues raised by the presenters. Thoughtful class participation requires preparation above and beyond reading; weekly writing is an integral part of the weekly readings. The total mark for participation will take into account the quality and quantity of contributions to discussions, and quality of presentations.

2. Journal writing: The purpose of this exercise is to increase your confidence and ability to make thoughtful contributions to the seminar discussions, and to encourage you to value and learn from your classmates' ideas. You are expected to **submit a total of 8 journal entries for evaluation** (See attached instructions on journal writing).

3. Research Essay: A research essay (15 typewritten, double-spaced pages) directly related to the course topic will be **due on November 24** Note that **late assignments** will receive a penalty of 2% of the assignment grade per day (including week-ends and holidays). In the interest of fairness, students seeking to defer the presentation of term work must present a medical certificate or comparable document to the instructor.

The essay must be based on a **proposal/outline** which will be **due no later than November 3**. Instructions for building the proposal will follow. I will approve your topic only after reading the proposal and meeting with you individually. **Failure to fulfil this part of the assignment will cost you 10% of the total essay mark.**

4. Final Exam: An essay type take-home exam. Questions will be handed out during our last meeting, on December 1, and **the exam will be due back in my office on December 8 at 4:00 pm.**

All assignments are to be handed in IN CLASS.

Readings for the Course

The required readings for each topic are indicated by a number (1,2). Readings will be made available in class. Journal articles may be accessed electronically from Weldon library. Additional readings will be placed in the short-term reserve section of the D.B. Weldon Library.

TOPICS AND READINGS

September 8: Introduction to the Course: Key Issues and Concepts

September 15: The State, Society and Power: Why Should We Care ?

1. “You Should Have Stayed Home” CBC documentary (Producer: Tamar Weinstein), 2011. (in class viewing).
2. David Held, “Central Perspectives on the Modern State”, in *Political Theory and the Modern State*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1989, pp. 11-55.

Section I: Finding the Origins of “The State and Power” in Twentieth Century Theory

September 22: Class, Power and the State: Marx’s Ambiguous Legacy

1. Karl Marx, “From ‘The German Ideology’: Chapter One”, in Joseph O’Malley ed. And trans. *Marx: Early Political Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp. 121-134, 154-174.
2. V.I. Lenin, “The State and Revolution”, in Henry M. Christman, ed., *Essential Works of Lenin*. New York: Dover Publications, 1987, pp. 272-285.

Recommended:

Murry Knuttila and Wendee Kubik, “Classical Marxism”, in *State Theories: Classical, Global and Feminist Perspectives*. Third Edition. Halifax, N.S.: Fernwood Press, 2000, pp. 83-109.

September 29: The State as Autonomous Source of Power and Institutional Logics

1. Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation", in H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1958, pp. 77-87.
2. Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," in G. Roth and C. Wittich, *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. New York: Bedminster Press, 1968, pp. 956-985.

Recommended:

Murry Knuttila and Wendee Kubik, "Sociological Conceptions of the State", in *State Theories: Classical, Global and Feminist Perspectives*. Third Edition. Halifax, N.S.: Fernwood Press, 2000, pp. 35-51.

October 6: The State as an Institutional Arena for Political Action: Overview of the Pluralist Approach

1. Martin Carnoy, *The State and Political Theory*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 10-43.
2. Michael Mann, "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results" in *European Journal of Sociology* XXV, 1984: 185-213.
2. David Held and Joel Krieger, "Theories of the State: Some Competing Claims", in Stephen Bornstein, David Held and Joel Krieger, eds., *The State in Capitalist Europe*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1984.

Recommended:

Murry Knuttila and Wendee Kubik, "Sociological Conceptions of the State", in *State Theories: Classical, Global and Feminist Perspectives*. Third Edition. Halifax, N.S.: Fernwood Press, 2000, pp. 67-82.

October 13: Culture and Power: The State and the Reproduction of Capitalism

1. Antonio Gramsci, "The Art and Sciences of Politics", in David Forgacs, ed. *The Antonio Gramsci Reader*. New York: The New York University Press, 2000, pp. 222-238.
2. Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes toward an Investigation)", in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, trans. B. Brewster. New York and London: Monthly Review Press, 1971, pp. 127-86.

Recommended:

Martin Carnoy. *The State and Political Theory*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984, Chapters 3 and 4.

October 20: The State as the Institutionalization of Male Power

1. Catherine McKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*. Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1989, chapters 8 (pp. 157-170), 11 (pp. 195-214).
2. Drude Dahlerup, "Confusing Concepts, Confusing Reality: A Theoretical Discussion of the Patriarchal State", in Anne Showstack Sasson, ed., *Women and the State*. London: Routledge, 1987, pp.
3. Wendy Brown, "Finding the Man in the State", *Feminist Studies*, 18, 1, Spring 1992:7-34.

October 27: Imperfect Copies or Different Beasts? Peripheral States and the Question of Power

1. Bertrand Badie, *The Imported State. The Westernization of the Political Order*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000, pp. 48-87, 165-238.
2. Samir Amin, "The State and Development," in David Held, ed., *Political Theory Today*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991, pp. 305-329.

Recommended:

Martin Carnoy. *The State and Political Theory*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984, Chapter 172.

Section II: Rethinking Power and Rule in a Global Context

November 3: If "the State" does not Exist how do we Study "the State"?

1. Philip Abrams, "Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State", in *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 1, 1 (March 1988): 58-89.
2. Philip Corrigan, "State Formation", in Gilbert M. Joseph and Daniel Nugent, eds., *Everyday Forms of State Formation*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1994, pp. xvii-xix.

James C. Scott, "Cities, People and Language" in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed*. New Haven and London: Yale

University Press, 1998, pp. 53-83.

Recommended:

Pierre Bourdieu, "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field", in Gilbert M. Joseph and Daniel Nugent, eds., *Everyday Forms of State Formation*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1994, pp. 53-75.

November 10: What is "Power"?

1. Jerry Tew, *Social Theory, Power and Practice*. New York: Palgrave, 2002, pp. 152-176.

2. Michel Senellart, ed., *Michel Foucault. Security, Territory, Population*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, pp. 1-27.

Recommended:

TBA

November 17: Political Rule Beyond the State

1. Mitchell Dean, *Governmentality: Power and Rule in Modern Society*, 2nd edition. Los Angeles: Sage, 2010, pp. 16-51.

2. Nikolas Rose, *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999, pp. 15-60.

Recommended:

Thomas Lemke (2011). TBA.

November 24: The Postcolonial Challenge

1. Robert J. Young . "Postcolonialism", in *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*. Malden, M.A./Oxford: Blackwell, 2001, pp. 57-69, 73-87.

2. Jonathan Hill, "Beyond the Other? A Postcolonial Critique of the Failed State Thesis", *African Identities*, 3, 2, 2005: 139-154.

December 1: An Overview

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.