

PSC/IR 259: Order, Violence, and the State

Tuesdays, Thursdays 3:25-4:40

Meliora 203

<https://rochester.zoom.us/j/94908417837>

Instructor

Scott Abramson

sabramso@ur.rochester.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12 am

<https://rochester.zoom.us/j/93163974766>

Harkness Hall 323

Course Description

Why are some societies plagued by endemic violence and others peaceful? How do peaceful, ordered societies emerge and persist? This course answers these questions by examining the origins of political order over a long-span of human history. Using the tools of modern social science as well as historical and anthropological material we will explore how states emerged from anarchy, how they have come to control the use of force, and the implications of political order for material well-being and prosperity.

Requirements

Reading for the week must be completed by all students before class. I will get in touch with you outside of class if I have concerns about your preparation for class or participation. All students are required to bring an internet capable device (phone, tablet, laptop) to class. If you do not have access to such a device please contact me and we can make alternative arrangements.

Grading

For non “W” Students:

33% Midterm Examination 1

33% Midterm Examination 2

34% Final Examination

For “W” Students:

25% Midterm Examination 1

25% Midterm Examination 2

25% Final Examination

25% Final Paper

The final paper provides “W” students with an opportunity to examine the topics discussed in class from the in-depth perspective of one or several empirical cases of their choosing (although other suitable projects may be substituted for this; for example, students may be allowed to write a paper that includes statistical analysis if they prefer). The paper will require students to cite at least six academic sources not among assigned readings for the class. You should meet with me before week eight of the semester to discuss a topic. More details about the final paper will be forthcoming in the first few weeks of class.

If you are entitled to examination accommodations, please coordinate these with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in advance of the examination. Information is available at: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/disability/index.html>. Students will not be able to obtain special examination accommodations directly from the professor.

Re-grading

If a student wishes to challenge the grade assigned to all or part of an essay, the following steps must be taken:

- Students must email the professor a request for a re-grade within 72 hours of the exams being returned to the class.
- A request for a re-grade must explain which aspect(s) of the exam/quiz/paper the student believes should have been assigned a higher score. For each disputed aspect, students must justify why they should be given a higher grade and cite specific materials in the readings or lectures if applicable.

Readings

All materials are available electronically through the library. If they are not, they will be made available on Blackboard.

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work and examinations must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Class schedule

Introduction to the course

Topic 1: Order Without the State

Reading for the topic:

Axelrod, Robert and W.D. Hamilton. 1981. "The Evolution of Cooperation." *Science* 211(4489).

Cohen, Dov and Richard E. Nisbett. 1994. "Self-protection and the culture of honor: Explaining Southern violence." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 20(5).

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. "Explaining interethnic cooperation." *American political science review* 90.4 (1996): 715-735.

Jackman, Robert W., and Ross A. Miller. "Social capital and politics." *Annual review of political science* 1.1 (1998): 47-73.

Topic 2: The State

Reading for the topic:

Boix, Carles. 2015. *Political Order and Inequality: Their Foundations and their Consequences for Human Welfare*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1–5.

Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, democracy, and development." *American political science review* 87.3 (1993): 567-576.

Sanchez de la Sierra, Raul. "On the Origins of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo," *Journal of Political Economy*, forthcoming.

Topic 3: Making the Territorial State

Reading for the topic:

Herbst, Jeffrey. "The creation and matintenance of national boundaries in Africa." *International Organization* 43.4 (1989): 673-692.

Enrico Spolaore. "National Borders and the Size of Nations" in *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*, edited by Barry Weingast and David Wittman Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006

Alesina, Alberto, William Easterly, and Janina Matuzeski. 2011. "Artificial States." *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 9(2).

Topic 4: State Capacity

Reading for the topic:

Mann, Michael. "The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results." *European Journal of Sociology/Archives européennes de sociologie* 25.2 (1984): 185-213.

Hanson, Jonathan K., and Rachel Sigman. "Leviathan's latent dimensions: Measuring state capacity for comparative political research." *The Journal of Politics* 83.4 (2021): 1495-1510.

Lee, Melissa M., and Nan Zhang. "Legibility and the informational foundations of state capacity." *The Journal of Politics* 79.1 (2017): 118-132.

Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990–1992*. Blackwell. Chapters 1–4, 7.

Dincecco, Mark, and Mauricio Prado. "Warfare, fiscal capacity, and performance." *Journal of Economic Growth* 17.3 (2012): 171-203.

Topic 5: Constraining the State

Reading for the topic:

North, Douglass C., and Barry R. Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 49(4).

Weingast, Barry R. 1997. "The political foundations of democracy and the rule of the law." *American Political Science Review*, 91(2).

Epstein, Stephan R. 2002. *Freedom and Growth: The Rise of States and Markets in Europe, 1300–1750*. Routledge. Selection TBD

Clark, Gregory. 1996. "The Political Foundations of Modern Economic Growth, England 1540–1800." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 26(4).

Dincecco, Mark. 2010. "Fragmented authority from Ancien Regime to modernity: a quantitative analysis." *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 6(3).

Stasavage, David. "Credible commitment in early modern Europe: North and Weingast revisited." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 18.1 (2002): 155-186.

Topic 6: Collective Action and Revolution

Reading for the topic:

Olson, Mancur. *The logic of collective action*. Vol. 124. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 1

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now out of never: The element of surprise in the East European revolution of 1989." *World Politics*, 44(1).

Lohmann, Susanne. "The dynamics of informational cascades: The Monday demonstrations in Leipzig, East Germany, 1989–91." *World politics* 47.1 (1994): 42-101.

Topic 7: Civil War

Reading for the topic:

Blattman, Christopher, and Edward Miguel. "Civil war." *Journal of Economic literature* 48.1 (2010): 3-57.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. *The logic of violence in civil war*. Cambridge University Press, 2006. (Selections TBD)

Topic 8: Democracy & Democratization

Reading for the topic:

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. "Modernization: Theories and facts." *World politics* 49.2 (1997): 155-183.

Ziblatt, Daniel. "How did Europe democratize?." *World Politics* 58.2 (2006): 311-338.

Boix, Carles. "Democracy, development, and the international system." *American Political Science Review* 105.4 (2011): 809-828.

Acemoglu, Daron, et al. "Income and democracy." *American Economic Review* 98.3 (2008): 808-42.

Topic 9: Ethnicity

Reading for the topic:

Alesina, Alberto, et al. "Fractionalization." *Journal of Economic growth* 8.2 (2003): 155-194.

Habyarimana, James, et al. "Why does ethnic diversity undermine public goods provision?." *American Political Science Review* 101.4 (2007): 709-725.

Alesina, Alberto, Reza Baqir, and William Easterly. "Public goods and ethnic divisions." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114.4 (1999): 1243-1284.

Topic 10: Nationalism

Reading for the topic:

Ernest Gellner. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Cornell University Press. Chapters 1-7.

Weber, Eugen. 1977. *Peasants into Frenchmen. The Modernization of Rural France, 1870–1914*. Stanford University Press. Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 17.

Balcells, Laia. 2013. "Mass schooling and Catalan nationalism." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 19(4).

Mylonas. 2016. "Threats to Territorial Integrity, National Mass Schooling, and Linguistic Commonality." *Comparative Political Studies*, 49(11).