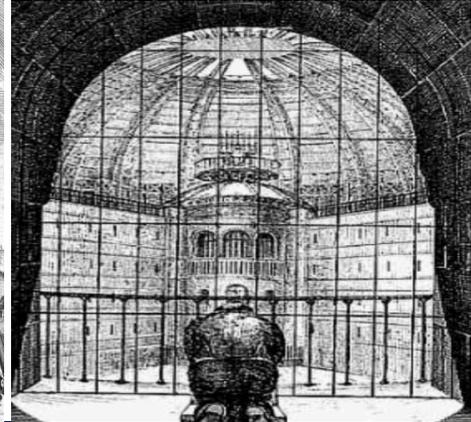


CSS Sophomore Government Tutorial
State and Society in the Modern Age



Instructor: Basak Kus
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Office: 318 PAC

Office Hours: Mondays, by appointment only

Course Description

In this course, we will learn about the modern state. Our approach will be historical and comparative. We will study how the modern state came to be, and how its involvement in social and economic life has varied cross-nationally. Our approach will also be theoretical. We will read and discuss some of the key theoretical works about what a state is, where it derives its legitimacy from, and how it operates.

Each week you will write a five-page double-spaced essay on the assigned readings. Your essay should offer a critical reflection on the readings.

In addition, I would like you to prepare two discussion questions on the readings for each class, and submit it on Moodle by 1 pm on Friday.

Required Texts

Most of the assigned texts are either available as an e-book at the library, or they will be made available on Moodle.

Course Organization

You are expected to attend all class sessions, and submit all assignments on time. Students with documented disabilities may request reasonable accommodations at Wesleyan. Please let me know if this situation applies to you, and I will work with you to create an accommodating environment.

Preceptorial- You will have a one-hour mandatory session with Ariel Deutsch (tentatively scheduled for 9-10 pm EST in person on Wednesdays).

I will hold office hours earlier in the week (tentatively scheduled for Mondays). Participation in office hours is mandatory during the first three weeks of the course.

Weekly Outline

Week 1. Theories about the modern state and its historical foundations

- David Harvey, "The Marxian Theory of the State"
- Max Weber, "Politics as Vocation"
- Pierre Bourdieu, "Rethinking the State"
- J. Scott, selections from *Seeing Like a State*
- M. Foucault, selections from *Discipline & Punish*
- Michael Mann, selections from *The Sources of Social Power*

Week 2. Theories about the modern state and its historical foundations, continued

- Charles Tilly, selections from *Coercion, Capital and European States*
- Phil Gorski, "The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia"
- Lisa Anderson, "The State in the Middle-East and North Africa"
- Kiren Aziz Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers"

Week 3. American Statecraft and Its Peculiarities

- Alexis de Tocqueville, selections from *Democracy in America*
- Jonah Levy, selections from *Tocqueville's Revenge*
- Theda Skocpol, "Associations Without Members"
- E. Immergut, "Institutions, Veto Points, And Policy Results"
- Sven Steinmo, "Why is government so small in America?"
- Barnes, "Adversarial Legalism, the Rise of Judicial Policymaking, and the Separation of Powers".

Week 4. The Welfare State

- K. Polanyi, "Speenhamland and the Poor Law" from *The Great Transformation*
- Gosta Esping Andersen, selections from *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*
- Cybelle Fox, "Race, Immigration, and the American Welfare State"
- M. Gilens, "Why Americans Hate Welfare"
- Susan Mettler, *The Submerged State*

Week 5. The Straight State

- Margot Canaday, selections from *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America*
- Jyoti Puri, selection from *Sexual States*
- T. Reskola, "Raping Like a State"

Week 6. The Racial State

- David Theo Goldberg, selections from *The Racial State*
- Mark Weiner, selections from *Americans Without Law: The Racial Boundaries of Citizenship*
- Loic Wacquant, "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the 'Race Question' in the United States."
- Dorothy Roberts, "Collateral Consequences, Genetic Surveillance, and the New Biopolitics of Race"

Week 7. The State as a Problem

- M. Friedman, selections from *Capitalism and Freedom*
- F. von Hayek, selections from *Road to Serfdom*
- Von Mises, selections from *Bureaucracy*
- Peter Schuck, selections from *Why Government Fails So Often*
- James Scott, selections from *Two Cheers for Anarchism*

Week 8. Populism and Fascism in History

- F. Finchelstein, selections from *From Fascism to Populism in History*
- Jan-Werner Müller, selections from *What is Populism?*
- M. Kazin, "Democracy Betrayed and Redeemed"