Every aspect of our lives is shaped by the state. What exactly is it, the modern state? How has it come to be? From where does it derive its legitimacy? How has its involvement in social and economic life evolved over time, and varied cross-nationally? In what ways is American statecraft considered "exceptional"? In this class we will seek answers to these questions, and on the way, we will learn about welfare states, penal states, racial states, straight states, submerged states, authoritarian states, strong and weak states.

Coursework

Journaling x 15  30 points
Attendance       10 points
Participation    10 points
Take home exam   50 points

- **Attendance**

The class will meet twice a day through the course of 8 days (January 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21). 1 absence from a morning or afternoon session = free. After that, each morning or afternoon absence will cost you 3 points. If you miss 3 days or more (6 sessions), you cannot pass the class.

- **Participation**

Bring your reading notes, offer your views, ask questions, and volunteer answers to others’ questions. If you sit silently in class, you will not get full credit. You must be engaged. No phones or laptops. I evaluate your participation three times during the semester on this basis: never participates: 0; rarely participates: 1 point; sometimes participates: 2 points; consistently participates: 3 points.

- **Writing Assignments**

You will write 15 journal entries. These short essays will be around 200 words. You will not get a letter grade; you will get a credit “on completion.” There will be a take home exam at the end.
Assignment Submission Policy

If you have legitimate reasons that will keep you from completing your work on time, please make sure to touch base with me as soon as possible. Late submissions will result in a substantial reduction of your grade.

University-wide Statements

- Accommodation Statement

  Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, its programs and services. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

  If you have a disability, or think that you might have a disability, please contact Accessibility Services in order to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Accessibility Services is located in North College, rooms 021/022, or can be reached by email (accessibility@wesleyan.edu) or phone (860-685-5581).

- Religious/Spiritual Observance Resources

  If you anticipate that your religious/spiritual observance may conflict with academic obligations such as attending class, taking examinations, or submitting assignments, you can work directly with your professor to make reasonable arrangements. Should you require additional support or guidance, please feel free to reach out to Rabbi David Teva, Director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at dleipziger@wesleyan.edu or any of the chaplains in the Office.

- Title IX Resources

  If past trauma inhibits your ability to fully participate in class, please contact Debbie Colucci, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, at decolucci@wesleyan.edu, or your class dean. Additionally, and if you are comfortable, you can work directly with your professor to make reasonable arrangements. If you would like to talk with a confidential resource about all of your options for care and support under Title IX, you can contact Johanna DeBari (SHAPE Office Director) at jdebari@wesleyan.edu.

- Classroom Behavior

  Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.

  Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on the student code.
- **Discrimination and Harassment**

  Wesleyan University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment and does not tolerate identity-based discriminatory harassment and/or sexual misconduct against students, faculty, staff, trustees, volunteers, and employees of any university contractors/agents. For purposes of this Wesleyan policy, identity refers to one’s race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression. The Office for Equity and Inclusion serves students, faculty, administrators and develops policies and procedures regarding issues of diversity and equal opportunity/affirmative action. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office for Equity and Inclusion at 860-685-4771.

- **Honor Code**

  All students of Wesleyan University are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council—Office of Student Affairs. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). The Office of Student Affairs has more information.

### Course Outline

#### CONCEPTUALIZING THE MODERN STATE

**January 12**
- David Harvey, “The Marxian Theory of the State”
- Max Weber, selections from “Politics as Vocation”
- James Scott, selections from *Seeing Like a State*
- Pierre Bourdieu, “Rethinking the State”

**January 13**
- M. Foucault, selections from *Discipline & Punish*
- Jyoti Puri, “Sexualizing the State”
- Margot Canaday, selections from *The Straight State*
- David Theo Goldberg, selections from *The Racial State*

#### THE “EXCEPTIONAL” AMERICAN STATE

**January 14**
- Alexis de Tocqueville, selections from *Democracy in America*
- Robert Putnam, selections from *Bowling Alone*
- Theda Skocpol, "Associations Without Members"
- Dana Fisher, selections from *Activism Inc.*

**January 15 NO CLASS**
January 16
• Sven Steinmo, “American Exceptionalism Reconsidered”
• Gosta Esping Andersen, selections from The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism
• Cybelle Fox, “Race, Immigration, and the American Welfare State”
• Martin Gilens, “Why Americans Hate Welfare”
• Susan Mettler, selections from The Submerged State

January 17
• Michelle Alexander, selections from The New Jim Crow
• Loic Wacquant, “Crafting the Neoliberal State”
• Sam Lebovic, “The Evolution of the Espionage Act”
• Douglas Stuart, selections from Creating the National Security State
• Lisa Stampnitzky, selections from Disciplining Terror

THE STATE AS A PROBLEM

January 18
• F. von Hayek, selections from Road to Serfdom
• M. Friedman, selections from Capitalism and Freedom
• David Harvey, “The Marxian Theory of the State”

January 19 NO CLASS

January 20
• James Scott, selections from Two Cheers for Anarchism
• J. Rawls, “Civil Disobedience”
• Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
• Candice Delmas, selections from A Duty to Resist: When Disobedience Should Be Uncivil
• David E. Pozen, “Edward Snowden, National Security Whistleblowing, and Civil Disobedience”

January 21
• Jan-Werner Müller, selections from What is Populism?
• M. Kazin, “Democracy Betrayed and Redeemed”
• F. Finchelstein, selections, From Populism to Fascism in History
• Umberto Eco, “Ur-Fascism”