

University of Washington
Department of Political Science and Jackson School of International Studies
Spring 2020

State-Society Relations
POLS 542/JSIS 542
Tuesdays, 1:30-4:20pm
via Zoom invitation (originally, 167 Savery Hall)

Professor Susan Whiting
(Office location: 147 Gowen Hall)
swhiting@uw.edu

Course Description

State-society analysis privileges the interaction of state institutions and social forces in explaining political outcomes, ranging from revolution to provision of public goods. This mode of analysis stands in contrast to strictly state-centered or society-centered explanations of political phenomena. The course addresses state building, state capacity, class-based mobilization, contentious politics, social movements, civil society, identity politics, and nationalism. Multi-method research is a hallmark of this literature.

The course serves graduate students preparing for qualifying exams and engaged in thesis writing (M.A. and Ph.D.).

Each week, an influential book will be the center of discussion, supplemented by short selections from relevant classical social theory and related work. Seminar sessions will explore four core questions, among others:

- 1) what are the roots of the work in classical social theory,
- 2) how does each work build on, contribute to, and critique prior scholarship,
- 3) how does the author relate theory and method, integrating quantitative and qualitative data, and
- 4) what is the scholarly identity and intellectual agenda of the author.

The goal is to both appreciate and critique assigned works.

Course Requirements

The focus of the seminar is reading, discussion, and writing. Students may choose between two options for course requirements.

Option A: Students will write **three two-page** essays on the readings and **one 25-page** research paper or research design for the dissertation. The topic for the longer paper should be finalized in consultation with the professor.

Option B: Students will write **six two-page** essays on the readings and **one 15-page** bibliographic essay or *World Politics*-style review essay on an aspect of state-society relations.

Essays should be posted under the relevant Canvas/Modules/Discussion *and* under Canvas/Assignments by 5pm on Mondays. Students may be asked to make presentations based on their essays on the readings.

All students are required to read and comment on essays.

Course Materials

Slater, *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia*
Migdal, *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-society Relations and State Capabilities in the 3rd World*
Levien, *Dispossession without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India*
Pasotti, *Resisting Redevelopment: Protest in Aspiring Global Cities*
Ketchley, *Egypt in a Time of Revolution: Contentious Politics and the Arab Spring*
Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China*
Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare: Subnationalism and Social Development in India*
Beissinger, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*

Books have been ordered and are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and at other vendors. There is no course reserve as of now, since libraries are closed. Journal articles and book chapters are available full-text online through the UW Library E-Journals and E-books collection. Excerpts and manuscripts are available on Canvas.

Office Hours

Office hours for Spring Quarter are by appointment via Zoom.

Additional Course Information

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates Hall (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs>). If you have a letter from DRS indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so that we can discuss the accommodations you may need for class.

The Department of Political Science recognizes and affirms the University of Washington's mission to "value and honor diverse experiences and perspectives, strive to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promote access, opportunity and justice for all." We expect every member of this community to contribute toward cultivating an inclusive and respectful culture throughout our classrooms, work environments, and campus events.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Introduction

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

State Building

Dan Slater, *Ordering Power: Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in Southeast Asia* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," In Evans, Rueschemeyer, and Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985). Canvas.

Max Weber, short selection on legitimate domination. Canvas.

Optional:

Michael Mann, "A Theory of the Modern State," *The Sources of Social Power Volume II The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993), pp. 44-77 only.

WEEK THREE

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

State Capacity

Joel Migdal, *Strong Societies and Weak States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988).

Mattias Ottervik, "Conceptualizing and Measuring State Capacity: Testing the Validity of Tax Compliance as a Measure of Capacity," University of Gothenburg Quality of Government Institute Working Paper, December 2013. Canvas

Shils, short selection on center periphery. Canvas.

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

State and Social Class

Michael Levien, *Dispossession without Development* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Karl Marx, short selection on primitive accumulation. Canvas.

Polanyi, *Great Transformation*, short selection on fictitious commodities and double movement. Canvas.

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Contentious Politics and Revolutionary Change

Neil Ketchley, *Egypt in a Time of Revolution: Contentious Politics and the Arab Spring* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Yasser El-Shimy, "A Model of Praetorian States," Harvard Kennedy School Middle East Initiative MEI Working Paper, 2016-01. Canvas.

Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, short selection. Canvas.

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Social Movements

Elenora Pasotti, *Resisting Redevelopment* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Sidney Tarrow and Charles Tilly, "Contentious Politics and Social Movements," in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), UW Library E-books.

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Civil Society

Diana Fu, *Mobilizing without the Masses* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Andrew Arato, "Civil Society Against the State," *Telos* 1981 (March). Canvas.

De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, short selection. Canvas.

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Ethnicity and Identity Politics

Perna Singh, *How Solidarity Works for Welfare: Subnationalism and Social Development in India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, No. 4 (November 2007), pp. 709–725. Full-text online, UW Library E-Journals.

Durkheim, short selection. Canvas.

WEEK NINE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Nationalism

Mark Beissinger, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of Soviet State* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

James Fearon and David Laitin, "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* Vol. 54, No. 4 (Autumn 2000), pp. 845-877 or David Laitin, "The National Uprisings in the Soviet Union," *World Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (October 1991), pp. 139-177. Full-text online, UW Library E-Journals.

Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, short selection. Canvas.

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Workshop

Calla Hummel, "Informal Workers, Contentious Politics, and the State," Unpublished book ms. Canvas.