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

Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:00-12:20 Strong Auditorium Room 011

#### Instructor

Scott Abramson sabramso@ur.rochester.edu Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12 am Meet over Zoom 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

25% Midterm Examination 25% Final Examination

25% Final Paper

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. 211(4489).

Science

-protection and the culture of honor:

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 20(5).

erican

political science review 90.4 (1996): 715-735.

Topic 2: Rationalist Explanations for Violence Reading

for the topic:

379-414.

Topic 3: 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.

-making and state-

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

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 7, 8, 9.

#### Topic 4b: Alternatives to the Territorial State Reading

for the topic:

**Abram** International

Organization, **71(1)**.

Spryut, Hendrick. 1994. The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 3, 5, 6.

### Topic 4c: Artificial States Reading

for the topic:

As a Benchmark:

Economy, edited by Barry Weingast and David Wittman Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006

Alesina, Alberto,

Journal

of the Columbia English En

International Organization 43.4 (1989): 673-

of Economic Growth 17.3 (2012): 171-203.

### Topic 8: Democracy & Democratization

Reading for the topic:

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. politics 49.2 (1997): 155-183.

-338.

Science Review 105.4 (2011): 809-828.

808-42.

## Topic 9: Ethnicity

Reading for the topic:

94.

American Political Science Review 101.4 (2007): 709-725.

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.

Nationalism and Ethnic

Politics 19(4).

Comparative Political Studies, 49(11).