Course Description

This course examines the rise, transformation, and collapse of the state and its structures, under a variety of political regimes. Numerous forces, ranging from ethnic mobilization to economic globalization, have forced the state to change, calling into question the idea of state autonomy. At the same time, the state has responded in a variety of ways, rarely as a unitary actor. This course will examine these forces, the state response, and the relative failure or success of its efforts. The course will also review the dominant theories of the state, and the methodological and analytical issues in the scholarship.

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation (15%). All students are expected to keep up with the readings, attend lectures, and participate in the sections.
2. Research paper (85%): the research paper should examine an empirical or theoretical puzzle from cases selected by the student, and apply the theories and concepts in generating hypotheses, testing them against other explanations, and providing a credible causal account. Suggested length is 25-35 pages.

Readings:

The following books are available for purchase, and are on reserve:

*asterisked readings are available at http://www.lib.umich.edu/ejournals/

The remaining readings are in the course packet on e-reserve.

**Week 1:**
Sept 6: Course Themes and requirements

**Week 2: Theorizing the State: Its role and significance**
Sept 13:


**Week 3: Analyzing the State**
Sept 20:


**Week 4: The Rise and Development of the State**


**Week 5: Drawing the Boundaries of the State: Ethnic mobilization and nationalism**

Oct 4: How the nation translates into the state—and vice versa.


**Week 6: The Revolutionary State**

Oct 11: Susceptibility to, and foment of, state revolutions.

Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: CUP, 1979: 47-111, 161-173. Read 3-47 for an introduction to Skocpol’s very influential approach.


**No Class October 18th**

**Week 7: The Rise of the Welfare State**

Oct 25: Redistribution, Class Dominance, and the Vicissitudes of Capitalism


**Week 8: The State and its temptations: Corruption and Predation**

Nov 1: Resource extraction, its causes and manifestations.


**Week 9: States and Regimes: Democracy**

Nov 8: Representation, accountability, and administration.


Week 10: States and Regimes: Communism and Fascism
Nov 15: Legitimacy without accountability, state planning, and the mechanisms of repression.


Week 11: States and Regimes: Developmental and Predatory States
Nov 22: Extracting resources where few exist, building economic and administrative frameworks.


Week 12: State Fragility
Nov 29th: State vulnerability and state collapse


**Week 13: State Autonomy?**
Dec 6: Colonizing the state, or fending it off?


**Week 14: Wrap-up**