

POLITICAL ORDER AND ORGANIZED VIOLENCE

This course focuses on the complex relationship between political institutions and the use of force. Discussions of this relationship are often hampered by the traditional division of intellectual labor between students of international politics and students of domestic politics, which is sometimes justified by the claim that domestic politics is politics within institutions, while international politics is politics with no institutional constraints. The use of force, however, is common in both arenas, and, although stronger international institutions are often said to be the only reliable way of preventing wars among states, the necessity of living under common political institutions frequently leads to civil war.

This course will therefore focus directly on the use of force as one means by which individuals and groups seek to pursue their interests no matter what the context. We will investigate how force is used, what it can be used for, and what determines whether it is used or not. We will also consider how people organize themselves for the use of force, what effect that has on the political structure of the planet, and whether and how political structures can restrict the use of force. Thus we will be interested in examining institutional restraints on the use of force on the one hand, and autocracy, coups d'etat, riots, revolutions, and civil and international wars on the other.

The following books have been ordered by the book stores for purchase by students in the course:

R. Harrison Wagner, *War and the State*

Diego Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia*

Philip Salzman, *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*

Bruce Porter, *War and the Rise of the State*

Paul Seabright, *The Company of Strangers*

David Galula, *Counterinsurgency Warfare*

Additional materials will be available on the course website, which is on the university Blackboard system (<http://courses.utexas.edu>).

In addition, assignments may be made in some of the following books, which are available in electronic form on the UT library website:

John Ikenberry, *After Victory*

Douglass North, et al., *Violence and Social Orders*

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*

Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*

Avner Greif, *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy*

David Laitin, *Nations, States, and Violence*

Thomas Barfield, *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*

These are all books that students might consider for purchase, but none has been ordered for this course.

Each week, students will be given a reading assignment in these materials, and a brief essay to write on a subject related to the reading. Essays should be approximately two double-spaced typewritten or word-processed pages in length, and will be due at the following class session. These essays will be graded, and returned a week later with comments. Students are allowed to drop without question three of these essay grades. Beyond that number, late essays will not be accepted without special permission. Grades on these essays will constitute one half a student's grade for the course.

The other half of the grade will be determined in one of three ways. The default option will be a take-home final examination, consisting of questions closely related to the problems assigned each week. A student who prefers to write a longer paper, or to prepare a research proposal related to the subject of the course, can ask for permission to substitute one of those options for the final examination.

Essay assignments will be handed out each week, and will also be available on the course website. The first part of the course will focus on general theoretical issues. The second part will discuss the development of the European state system. The course will conclude with a discussion of the relation between political order and organized violence in the contemporary system of states.