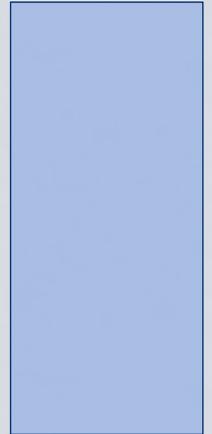


INRL 2211 - CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

WEEK 1-2



INRL 2211 - CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

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COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

WEEK 2: Introduction – Key Terms- Political Systems and Regime Types

WEEK 3: Democratization

WEEK 4: Overview of the State Systems

WEEK 5: United States

WEEK 6: United States

WEEK 7: UK

WEEK 8: MID-TERM EXAM

WEEK 9: GERMANY

WEEK 10: FRANCE

WEEK 11: NON- DEMOCRACIES

WEEK 12: NON- DEMOCRACIES

WEEK 13: MOVIE SESSION

WEEK 14: NON- DEMOCRACIES

WEEK 15: OVERVIEW

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM

ASSESSMENT METHOD

- Mid-term exam: %40
- Quiz: %10
- Final exam: %50

CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

THE AIM OF THE COURSE:

- To analyze state systems and politics of countries in detail,
- To identify common themes in their development that explain long-term causes of changes and continuities
- **Cross-national comparisons and explanations on four themes:**
 - Historical formation, internal organization, interaction of states within international order
 - Role of state in economic management
 - Spread and challenges of democracy
 - Sources and political impacts of collective identities

CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

WHY?

- Understanding politics requires looking **beyond a single national perspective**
- Deep connections and divisions formed **worldwide**
- **Explore politics of different countries** and their interdependence
- By comparing political institutions, values, processes in other countries, **learn analytical skills that can be used at home**

COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Comparative politics** studies domestic political institutions, processes, policies, conflicts, attitudes in different countries
- **International relations studies** foreign policies and interactions among countries, role of international organizations, influence of global actors
- **Studies overlap;** distinction important because political activity occurs within state borders and states still fundamental political building block

KEY TERMS

State

- The state comprises a country's key political institutions that are responsible for making, implementing, enforcing, and adjudicating important policies in that country.
- States have also been defined as those institutions within a country that claim the right to control force within the territory comprising the country and to make binding rules (laws), which citizens of that country must obey.

WHY COMPARE STATE SYSTEMS?

- States have been primary actors for about five hundred years
- DESPITE GLOBALIZATION?
- **GLOBALIZATION**
- Since the end of the Cold War (1989) we see increasing interconnectedness of nations, states and economies around the world.
- The intensification of worldwide interconnectedness associated with the increased speed and magnitude of cross-border flows of trade, investment, and finance, and processes of migration, cultural diffusion, and communication.
 - Economic – reorganization of production, redistribution of work force, increased international trade, finance, foreign direct investment
 - Movement of people – migration, business, educational opportunities
 - New applications of information technology

STATE & GLOBALIZATION

- Globalization complicates politics and erodes ability of countries to control their destinies
 - New forms of international governance to regulate and stabilize the flows of globalization
 - Example: European Union, World Trade Organization
 - Grassroots movements have challenged globalization
 - States can no longer act in isolation
 - Governments must address global problems nationally

STATE & GLOBALIZATION

- STATES ARE STILL IMPORTANT BECAUSE:
 - Rulers of states conquer other states
 - Legal codes of states allow business to operate
 - States provide for citizens, regulate movement of people
 - Policies of international organizations represent balance of power among states
 - Globalization causes blurring of the line between “the domestic” and “the foreign/ international”

KEY TERMS

- **Comparative Politics:**

- The study of the domestic politics, political institutions, and conflicts of countries. Often involves comparisons among countries and through time within single countries, emphasizing key patterns of similarity and difference.

KEY TERMS

- **Regime:**
- A term that is generally synonymous with government or political system.
- - institutions
- - law
- - rules
- - behaviour

KEY TERMS

- **Liberal Democracy:**
- A political system that combines capitalist organization of the economy with a democratic political system.

KEY TERMS

- **Ideology:**
- A set of fundamental ideas, values, or beliefs about how a political, economic, or social system should be organized. Examples of ideology include capitalism, communism, and socialism.

KEY TERMS

- **Authoritarian:**
- A system of rule in which power depends not on popular legitimacy but on the coercive force of the political authorities.
- Hence, there are few personal and group freedoms. It is also characterized by near absolute power in the executive branch and few, if any, legislative and judicial controls.

KEY TERMS

- **Globalization:**
- The intensification of worldwide interconnectedness associated with the increased speed and magnitude of cross-border flows of trade, investment, and finance, and processes of migration, cultural diffusion, and communication.

KEY TERMS

- **Sovereignty:**
- A state's claim to exercise authority and effective political control of political decisions within a given territory.

KEY TERMS

- **Neoliberalism:**
- A term used to describe government policies aiming to promote free competition among business firms within the market.
- Neoliberal policies include monetarism, privatization, reducing trade barriers, balancing government budgets, and reducing social spending.

Key TERMS

- **Executive:**
- The agencies of government that implement or execute policy.
- The highest levels of the executive in most countries is a president or prime minister and cabinet.
- The top executive officeholders supervise the work of administrative departments and bureaus.

KEY TERMS

- **Cabinet:**
- The ministers who direct executive departments.
- In parliamentary systems, the cabinet and high-ranking sub-cabinet ministers (also known as the government) are considered collectively responsible to parliament.

KEY TERMS

- **Legislature:**
- One of the primary political institutions in a country, in which elected members are charged with responsibility for making laws and usually providing for the financial resources for the state to carry out its functions.

KEY TERMS

- **Judiciary:**
- One of the primary political institutions in a country, responsible for the administration of justice and in some countries for determining the constitutionality of state decisions.

KEY TERMS

- **Bureaucracy:**
- An organization structured hierarchically, in which lower-level officials are charged with administering regulations codified in rules that specify impersonal, objective guidelines for making decisions.

KEY TERMS

- **Legitimacy:**
- A belief by the broad citizenry that a state exercises rightful authority.
- In the contemporary world, a state is said to possess legitimacy when it enjoys consent of the governed, which usually involves democratic procedures and the attempt to achieve a satisfactory level of development and equitable distribution of resources.

KEY TERMS

- **State Formation:**
- The historical development of a state, often marked by major stages, key events, or turning points (critical junctures) that influence the contemporary character of the state.

KEY TERMS

- **Nation-state:**
- Distinct, politically defined territory with its own state, relatively coherent culture, economy, and ethnic and other social identities.

KEY TERMS

- **Political Culture:**
- The attitudes, beliefs, and symbols that influence political behavior; often defined in terms of specific national political-cultural orientations.

KEY TERMS

- **Dictatorship:**
- A system of rule in which power depends not on popular legitimacy but on the coercive force of the political authorities.
- Hence, there are few personal and group freedoms. It is also characterized by near absolute power in the executive branch and few, if any, legislative and judicial controls.

Key terms

- **Democratic Transition:**
- The process of a state moving from an authoritarian to a democratic political system.

KEY TERMS

- **Political Economy:**
- The study of the interaction between the state and the economy, that is, how the state and political processes affect the organization of production and exchange (the economy) and how the organization of the economy affects political processes.

KEY TERMS

- **Sustainable Development:**
- An approach to promoting economic growth that seeks to minimize environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources.
- Advocates of sustainable development believe that policies implemented in the present must take into account the impact on the ability of future generations to meet their needs and live healthy lives.

KEY TERMS

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):**
- The total of all goods and services produced within a country that is used as a broad measure of the size of its economy.

KEY TERMS

- **Gross National Product (GNP):**
- A broad measure of the size of the economy. Similar to gross domestic product but also takes into account income from foreign sources.
- The World Bank started using the term *gross national income* rather than *gross national product* in its reports and statistics in 2002.

KEY TERMS

- **Social Movements:**
- Grass-roots associations that demand reforms of existing social practices and government policies. Social movements are less formally organized than interest groups.

KEY TERMS

- **Social Class:**
- Common membership in a group whose boundaries are based on a common economic location, notably, occupation and income. Members of the same social class often share similar political attitudes.

KEY TERMS

- **Consolidated Democracies:**
- Democratic political systems that have been solidly and stably established for an ample period of time and in which there is relatively consistent adherence to the core democratic principles.

KEY TERMS

- **Transitional Democracies:**
- Countries that have moved from an authoritarian government to a democratic one. Also referred to as newly established democracies.

KEY TERMS

- **Authoritarian Regimes:**
- A system of rule in which power depends not on popular legitimacy but on the coercive force of the political authorities.
- Hence, there are few personal and group freedoms. Authoritarian regimes are also characterized by near absolute power in the executive branch and few, if any, legislative and judicial controls.

KEY TERMS

- **Totalitarian:**
- A political system in which the state attempts to exercise total control over all aspects of public and private life, including the economy, culture, education, and social organizations, through an integrated system of ideological, economic, and political control.
- Totalitarian states are said to rely largely on terror as a means to exercise power. The term has been applied to both communist party-states including Stalinist Russia and Maoist China and fascist regimes such as Nazi Germany.