

State and Governance

Fall 2020

Jindal School of Government and Public Policy O.P. Jindal Global University

Course Synopsis:

Global events like Corona pandemic, 2008 financial crisis or 9/11 terrorist attacks led to the re-emergence of the modern state as a key actor in shaping the political identities, welfare and life-chances of its citizens; the strength and shape of a nation's economy; and much of the development of international policies. Rather than withering away, at every turn we are forced to think about the role it is playing. Yet the operations of states as 'multi-systems', with many component parts, continues to generate theoretical controversy about whether and how they exist, and how their diversity can be ascribed unity of purpose or operations. In the initial weeks of this course, we examine the main theories of the modern, complex state and controversies about its unity and diversity. In the second half, we move on to look at the its role as the main engine of governance - integrating roles of budget systems, constitutional provisions, bureaucratic institutions and information policies, the 'regulatory state' and 'welfare state' institutions in shaping the overall evolution of states.

Required Reading

John Dryzek and Patrick Dunleavy (2009) *Theories of the Democratic State* (Palgrave-Macmillan).

Print ISBN: 978-0-230-54287-7

Electronic ISBN: 978-0-230-36645-9

Recommended Reading

Supplementary readings will be provided as and when required.

Course Goal

- Understand main concepts and debates in classical and contemporary theories of state.
- Illustrate and evaluate the development and evolution of state as the key player in political arena.
- Examine the challenges and constraints faced by modern states.
- Enhance their interest in political engagement.
- Develop critical thinking and debating abilities.
- Prepare for higher studies in Political Science.

Instructor and Office Hours

Swetasree Roy
Swetasree@jgu.edu.in

Office hrs: TBD

Class Timings

TBD

Course Content

Week 1: The State and Liberal Democratic Politics

Reading: Textbook (TDS) Ch. 1

Week 2: Classical Theories: Pluralism

Reading: TDS Ch. 2

Week 3: Classical Theories: Elite Theory

Reading: TDS Ch. 3

Week 4: Classical Theories: Marxism

Reading: TDS Ch. 4

Week 5: Classical Theories: Market Liberalism

Reading: TDS Ch. 5

Week 6: Midterm

Week 7: From Neo-pluralism to Governance

Reading: TDS Ch. 6

Week 8: Competitive Electoral Politics

Reading: TDS Ch. 7

Week 9: Identity Politics

Reading: TDS Ch. 8

Week 10: Democratic Critique and Renewal

Reading: TDS Ch. 9

Week 11: Feminist Theory of State

Reading: TDS Ch. 10

Week 12: Environmental Theory of State

Reading: TDS Ch. 11

Week 13: Post-Modernist

Reading: TDS Ch. 13

Week 14: Globalization and Future of State

Reading: TDS Ch. 15

Assessment

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| Reflection papers | 25% |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Term Paper | 25% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Course Policies:

Attendance: will be followed according to the university norm.

Classroom Decorum: Entry to the lectures are not allowed 15 minutes after the start of the class. Please be courteous to your classmates and do not disrupt the class after the first 15 mins.

Lecture Break: will have a short break of 5 mins.

Plagiarism: will be heavily penalized. All reaction papers are individual effort and will be run through Turnitin. Research project might be a group activity based on discussion in class. Unless specified, you are strongly recommended to do your own work.