

PS292 Urbanization and the Nation-State

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Course Description

Much of contemporary discussions about global city networks tend to put little emphasis on how flows of trade and exchange depend on the persistent work of states. Instead, since the late 1980s, many authors have argued that, as command and control centers in networks of global flows, world and global cities grew more and more disconnected from their national hinterlands. But this way of looking at things risks pitting cities against states in a way that distorts the actual processes at play. Networks of cities, from that perspective, seem to be superseding the traditional order of the nation-state system, implanting a new governance logic on existing institutions and ultimately rendering them obsolete. This course explores the intricate relationships between cities and nation-states through a theoretical, historical lens and reflects on questions of global governance at the current moment in which traditional power hierarchies are increasingly in question. Our debates about urbanization and the social and political relationships at stake will be informed by urban and state theory.

Reading material

- Brenner, Neil et al. (eds.). 2003. *State/Space: A Reader*. Wiley-Blackwell (ISBN: 978-0-631-23034-2)
- Class Reader (available at the library)

Class preparation

In preparation for class, read the texts thoughtfully and engage with their core argument. Take notes while reading and try to identify questions in advance: Why do the authors argue as they do? How do they raise and substantiate their claims? How does their line of argumentation relate to earlier readings and discussions in class?

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected, as regular attendance is essential to the success of this course. There will be an attendance sheet for every session. Each absence beyond two (that is more than two absences from two sessions of 90 minutes without leave of absence from the seminar leader) will lead to the subtraction of 1 point from the overall final grade. Late arrival counts as an absence. If you miss more than 30 percent of the sessions you cannot pass the class.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Assignments, Grade Breakdown and Essay Deadlines

Oral

- **Classroom Participation (2*15%)** **30%**
This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions and working groups. This includes a persistent reflection on current events related to the course's core themes. The classroom is a protected space and you should feel free to voice your arguments and comments. Please do not hesitate to address the seminar leader if you feel that this is not the case.

Written

- **10 Response Papers (each ~500 words; 10*7%)** **70%**
Each student is required to write 10 response papers (1.5-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman) on sessions of their choice within the section slots (see schedule below). Response papers should articulate a short argument about a given reading, seeking to embed an analysis of the primary texts' main tenets in the broader context of earlier class discussions.
 - **Response papers need to be submitted per email by the beginning of the respective session. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Schedule

Week Beginning	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments
I. Cities and States in European History			
1 Aug 30	Introduction Braudel, <i>The Perspective of the World</i> Spruyt, <i>The Sovereign State</i> , Intro	Origins of the State Strayer, <i>Medieval Origins</i> , I	
2 Sept 6	Capitalism and the Nation-State Giddens, <i>Nation-State and Violence</i> , Ch. 6	Rise of the State System Wallerstein, <i>The Rise of the States System</i>	1 Response Paper
3 Sept 13	Cities and States in World History Tilly, <i>Coercion, Capital and European States</i>	State Spaces Brenner et al., <i>State Space Introduction</i>	
II. Theorizing Cities, States and Space			
4 Sept 20	Modernization of State Power Escolar, <i>State/Space</i> Ch. 1	The Autonomous Power of the State Mann, <i>State/Space</i> Ch. 2	
5 Sept 27	The Nation Poulantzas, <i>State/Space</i> Ch. 3	Space and the State Lefebvre, <i>State/Space</i> Ch. 4	3 Response Papers
6 Oct 4	The State as Container Jacobs, <i>The Economy of Cities</i>	The Spatial Fix Harvey, <i>Spatial Fix</i>	
III. Geopolitics of Globalization			
7 Oct 11	Revisoning World Politics Agnew, <i>Geopolitics</i> , Chs. 1&6	Shaping Space Mukerji, <i>The Territorial State as a Figured World of Power</i>	
	<i>Fall Break (Oct 18-24)</i>		

8 Oct 25	<p>Urbanization & Regionalization Smith, <i>State/Space</i>, Ch. 12 Keating, <i>State/Space</i>, Ch. 14</p>	<p>Globalization Makes States Keil, <i>State/Space</i>, Ch. 15 Nordstrom, <i>State/Space</i>, Ch. 18</p>	3 Response Papers
9 Nov 1	<p>End of a Paradigm Therborn, <i>The Idea of Stateless Cities</i></p>	<p>Cities in the International Order Curtis, <i>Global Cities and Global Order</i></p>	
IV. Critical Logistics			
10 Nov 8	<p>A New field Cowen, <i>The Deadly Life of Logistics</i>, Intro Chua et al., <i>Turbulent Circulation</i></p>	<p>Literature Overviews Hesse, <i>Situating Flows in a Spatial Context</i> Coe, <i>Logistical Geographies</i></p>	3 Response Papers
11 Nov 15	<p>States, Spaces, Circulation Schouten et al., <i>States of Circulation</i></p>	<p>Logistical Fix Danyluk, <i>Capital's Logistical Fix</i></p>	
12 Nov 22	<p>Networked Financial Products Torrance, <i>Forging Glocal Governance?</i></p>	<p>Global South Perspectives Ziadah, <i>Constructing a Logistics Space</i> Sebregondi, <i>The Zone in Reverse</i></p>	
13 Nov 29	<p>American Empire Chung, <i>From Korea to Vietnam</i></p>	<p>American Empire II Khalili, <i>Infrastructural Power of the Military U</i> S Treasury, <i>Expanding our National Infrastructure</i></p>	
14 Dec 6	<p>Future of Geopolitics? Vormann, <i>Global City Networks and Nation-States</i></p>	<p>Conclusion</p>	