Comparative politics is both a subject and a method. As a subject, we study the structures, processes, and outcomes of domestic politics. Methodologically, we hope to learn not simply by studying other countries, but rather by systematically comparing and contrasting their political processes and structures with the goal of deriving more general knowledge. This course is an introduction to both themes. We will not focus exclusively on any particular countries. Instead, we will range widely in time and space, taking a macro-perspective on the study of politics. In contrast to the popular view that differences in political practices across countries can be explained by different cultural values, we will explore the hypothesis that core features of political systems are instead shaped by divergent patterns in the generation and organization of power, and that these patterns themselves have a strong influence on culture. More specifically, we will look at how broad differences in the process of state formation affect the prospects for domestic order and democracy and the opportunities for economic prosperity.

Requirements: Attendance at lectures and weekly discussion sections is mandatory. Reading assignments should be completed by the date listed on the syllabus. I expect you to participate in discussion sections; your participation should be informed by readings and lectures. To facilitate your informed participation, there is a weekly writing assignment. You are required to write a brief (about one page) summary of the readings marked below with an asterisk. These summaries should be tightly compressed, concise summaries of the main arguments of the readings. In your own words, you should state the main claim of the reading: what is the phenomenon being discussed?; what are the main concepts employed?; and what are the main hypotheses proposed by the author? I think you will find that writing these short papers is excellent exercise: it will force you to concentrate while reading, and you will find that, with practice, you can distinguish between central and peripheral material and focus on the former, even while reading difficult articles. As a bonus, you will enter the discussion section with the arguments firmly in mind, making your participation that much easier. And, if all that were not enough, when it comes time to study for examinations, you will have summaries of many of the readings at your fingertips. Your teaching assistants will talk to you more about the mechanics of these papers. Keep in mind for now that each paper is due before the start of the lecture that is just prior to your discussion section: if your section meets on Tuesdays, your papers will be due on Monday (with the first paper due on September 9th); if your sections meet on Thursdays or Fridays, the papers will be due on Wednesday (with the first paper due on September 11th).

Grading: Your grade for the discussion section will count towards 10% of your final grade. There will be four other assignments: a quiz on September 23rd (contributing 10% to your final grade); a midterm examination on October 16th (worth 20% of your final grade); a five-page paper due on
November 20th (25% of your final grade); and a final examination on Wednesday, December 11th, from 2-5:00 (35% of your final grade). Permission to reschedule an exam or for an extension on the paper must be received prior to the scheduled due date.

Readings: All of the required readings are contained in one book and a reader. Walter C. Opello and Stephen J. Rosow, The Nation-State and Global Order: A Historical Introduction to Contemporary Politics is available in the university bookstore. A course packet available at Brillig Books on Elliewood Avenue contains all of the remaining readings. Because that reader is not yet available for purchase, I will place the first few readings on the course website (see above for the address).

Office Hours: I hold office hours every Monday from 3 to 5:00 in 146A Cabell. You are all welcome—even encouraged—to stop by, introduce yourselves, discuss any problems you might be having, talk about course material, and even, hopefully, argue about course material. I will also address specific questions sent to me by email. Please keep in mind, however, that I cannot summarize in an email the lecture that you missed.

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Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

August 28: Introduction.

**Part I: Basic Concepts and Approaches**

September 2: Comparative Politics and Political Science
   Robin Dunbar, The Trouble with Science, 12-27
   Todd Landman, Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics, 4-14, 22-34.

September 4: Thinking about Power
   *John Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley. 3-32.

September 9: Generating, Organizing, and Deploying Power

September 11: Early Forms of Political Organization
Part II: Capitalism and Democracy in Europe

September 16: Formation of the Modern State

September 18: Modern States and the Rise of Capitalism

September 23: Deploying Power and Forming Citizens

***Quiz---25 minutes--Quiz***

Martin Van Creveld, *The Rise and Decline of the State*, 143-170, 205-222.

September 25: State Building and Nationalism
*Rogers Brubaker, Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany*, 1-17.

September 30: Taming Power: Social Movements

October 2: Taming Power: Political Inclusion

October 7: Reading Holiday: No Class!!

October 9: Power Unleashed: Fascism and Communism
Opello and Rosow, *Nation-State and Global Order* 116 (bottom) -130.
*A. James Gregor, Interpretations of Fascism*, xviii-xxx.
October 14: Power Redeployed: Welfare States
   Opello and Rosow, *Nation-State and Global Order*, 133-56.

October 16: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

   **Part III: Comparative Politics and the Post-Colonial World**

October 21: Power, Culture, and Rationality
   *James Scott, Domination and the Arts of Resistance, 1-16.*

October 23 Culture and the Study of Comparative Politics: Modernization Theory
   *B.C. Smith, Understanding Third World Politics, 61-87.*

October 28 Power and the Study of Comparative Politics, Part I: Dependency Theory
   Smith, *Understanding Third World Politics*, 120-132, 142-167.

October 30: Power and the Study of Comparative Politics, Part II: The State

November 4: State Building in the Post-Colonial World: Causes

November 6: State Building in the Post-Colonial World: Economic Consequences.
November 11: State Building in the Post-Colonial World: Consequences for Democracy.

November 13: State Building and Revolutions
   ***The paper topic will be distributed at the end of this class session.***

November 18: State Building and Economic Development, Part II.

November 20: State Building and Democracy, Part II.
   ***Papers are due, 12:00***

November 25: Class Cancelled

November 27: No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2: State Collapse and Ethnic Conflict

December 4: Conclusion: Power, Culture, and Rationality

December 11: **Final Examination** (301 Minor) 2-5:00