

IREL 420: Sovereignty: Theory & Practice

Fall 2013 Monday, 7:00-10:00 PM Location: ACWS 200



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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4:30 & by appointment

Course Overview:

This course will explore historical and contemporary theories of sovereignty, focusing especially on questions of global governance, international intervention (military and humanitarian), state security, and economic globalization. It will also look at the ways that states and other institutions enact sovereign power through violent and non-violent means. Case studies will explore both concrete manifestations of sovereign power, such as the exercise of state authority at international borders, and the ways that claims to sovereignty have been used to justify new kinds of political interventions in contexts such as the War on Terror.

W2 Specific Course Goals

The Writing Program aims to develop students' mastery of written language. As a W2 course, this class will include:

1. Writing instruction
2. Support of the writing process
3. Teaching of the techniques of writing needed or expected in the discipline
4. Frequent and substantial writing
5. The use of writing assignments to teach the subject matter.

These criteria for W2 courses are designed to support students' achievement of the learning outcomes for the Writing Program by the time of graduation. These learning outcomes, referred to as Writing Program Outcomes (WPOs), are as follows:

WPO 1: students produce effective written communication in terms of expository skills (i.e., organization, clarity of expression, achieving purposes, and addressing intended audiences) and use of conventions relevant to particular disciplines or genres.

WPO 2: students practice writing as a process that includes planning, composing, revising, and editing; and

WPO 3: students use writing as an instrument for learning.

Course Learning Goals Unique to this course

- Explain, evaluate, and apply both classical and contemporary theories of sovereignty
- Understand contemporary debates over sovereignty as related to key issues in global governance (humanitarian and military intervention, transnational corporations, international regulatory regimes, etc.)
- Use a series of key theoretical and analytical concepts related to contemporary sovereignty (exception, extraterritoriality, sovereign power, etc.)
- Analyze the challenges and complexities of contemporary sovereignty from a range of different standpoints (theoretical, policy, etc.)
- Build skills in reading, evaluating and applying political theory to real-world cases
- Become conversant working with, discussing, and writing about the intersection between theory and evidence

Learning Objectives/Goals overlapping with the Learning Goals of the International Relations Department

- Understand the major concepts of international relations
- Understand and critically evaluate the theories and approaches to international relations
- Identify the key actors in international relations
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the key dimensions, events and processes of international relations within their historic context
- Demonstrate knowledge of the multi-disciplinary nature of international relations
- Demonstrate skills of critical analysis and written and oral communication

Course Policies and Expectations:

As an instructor I expect that students will treat this course with an appropriate degree of professionalism. This means that I expect you to:

- Arrive at class promptly and attend every class session (you should communicate with me about any missed classes *BEFORE* the class in question)
- Be personally responsible for material in any missed classes
- Arrive prepared to talk and engage with course materials
- Follow instructions on assignments and ask clarifying questions if needed
- Take thorough notes in class by hand, refraining from using a laptop (note--if you read materials on a device such as a Kindle or an iPad, you are welcome to bring that to class so long as you do not use it to access the internet)
- Treat your fellow students, the classroom environment, and your professor with respect and professionalism
- Respond respectfully and thoughtfully to feedback from your peers and your instructor

Assignments:**Class Participation: 20%**

(active and respectful participation, informed understandings of readings, leadership in class, discussion leadership of one course session, ability to summarize readings when called upon)

Class Direction: 5%

(Leading class discussion for 1 session and providing counterpoints)

1 Mid-Term Essays: 25%

(prompt-based essay evaluating course material)

Reading Responses (10): 10%

(2 Page discussions of readings complete with a discussion question posted online by noon the day of class (post-facto reading responses will not count towards your total number of required responses)). Responses will be evaluated as a portfolio at the end of class

Final Paper: 40%

(15-20 page research paper on an issue related to sovereignty).

Course Format:

The instructor will treat the course, and its members, as though it was a graduate-level seminar. The assumption is that much of the responsibility for learning rests on students. As such, this course will be primarily, though not exclusively, organized as a discussion course, and will require students to come prepared to work with whatever materials the instructor may provide. This course is also based on an extended research project carried out over the course of the semester. You will be regularly work-shopping ideas and discussing progress in writing within the course. As such, this course will further require that you become comfortable in sharing with and evaluating your peers. This will require a generous spirit and a critical eye, as well as an ability to sideline your own ego in the service of learning from those around you. This is a three-hour seminar. We will take a break mid-way through the course. This is an also evening course. I encourage you to bring snacks and caffeinated beverages if that will help you retain focus.

Additional information and support:

This is a writing intensive class. We will cover expectations and strategies as we work. You may also want to take advantage of the Bucknell Writing Center (<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1342.xml>) to support you in your work. Also, a set of my own advice and expectations for students writing in my classes can be found on my website: <http://www.jasoncons.net/for-students.html>.

Bucknell University Honor Code:

As a student and citizen of the Bucknell University community:

1. I will not lie, cheat or steal in my academic endeavors.
2. I will forthrightly oppose each and every instance of academic dishonesty.
3. I will communicate directly and promptly with any person or persons I believe to have been dishonest in academic work.
4. I will let my conscience guide my decision on reporting breaches of academic integrity to the appropriate faculty or deans.

Bucknell University expectations for academic engagement:

“Courses at Bucknell that receive one unit of academic credit have a minimum expectation of 12 hours per week of student academic engagement. Student academic engagement includes both the hours of direct faculty instruction (or its equivalent) and the hours spent on out of class student work. Half and quarter unit courses at Bucknell should have proportionate expectations for student engagement.”

Academic Responsibility:

Please, review Bucknell’s policies regarding:

Academic Integrity:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1340.xml>

Avoiding Plagiarism:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1341.xml>

Unauthorized Collaboration:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1344.xml>

Bucknell Resources for Research & Writing:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1342.xml>

Email Policy:

Please, feel free to contact me. However, please also keep in mind that I am as busy as you. Make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course Moodle site BEFORE sending an e-mail. Note that e-mail should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with me during office hours. Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials or to explain material that was covered in classes you missed (those are your responsibility to obtain from your peers). I will endeavor to respond within 24 hours.

Moodle and Required Texts:

Most of the readings for this course will be posted on Moodle. This is also where you will submit papers, reading responses, etc. Additionally, students should purchase copies of:

Laura Benton. *A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400-1900*. Cambridge University Press. 2009

Giorgio Agamben. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford University Press. 1998

Stuart Elden. *Terror and Territory: The Spatial Extent of Sovereignty*. University of Minnesota Press. 2009.

Allison Mountz. *Seeking Assylum: Human Smuggling and Bureaucracy at the Border*. University of Minnesota Press. 2010.

Brenda Chalfin. *Neoliberal Frontiers: An Ethnography of Sovereignty in West Africa*. University of Chicago Press. 2010.

Copies are available in the campus bookstore and at various online sites.

September 2: Course Introduction

Background Reading

- Hansen, T. and F. Stepputat. 2006. "Sovereignty Revisited." *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 35.

September 9: Classic(al) Frameworks

- Hobbes, T. 1994 [1651]. Chapters 17-19. *Leviathan*.
- Bodin, J. 1992 [1593]. "Book 1, Chapter 8: On Sovereignty." In *On Sovereignty*.
- Rousseau, J. 1997 [1762]. Book 1 and 2. *The Social Contract and Other Late Political Writings*.

Counterpoint:

- Locke, J. 1960 [1689]. "Property" and "On the Forms of a Common-wealth." In *Two Treatises of Government*.

September 16: Theological Foundations and Popular Transitions

- Kantorowicz, E. 1957. "The Problem: Plowden's Reports" and "Shakespeare: King Richard II." In *The King's Two Bodies: A Study in Medieval Political Theology*.
- Lefort, C. 1988. "The Permanence of the Theological Political?" In *Democracy and Political Theory*.
- Foucault, M. 2010 [1978]. "The Right of Death and the Power Over Life." In *The Foucault Reader*.
- Santner, E. 2011. "Sovereignty and the Vital Sphere." In *The Royal Remains: The People's Two Bodies and the Endgames of Sovereignty*.

September 23: Sovereign Histories

- Benton, L. 2010. *A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400-1900*.

Counterpoint:

- Mongia, R. 2007. "Historicizing State Sovereignty: Inequality and the Form of Equivalence." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 49(2).

September 30: Sovereign Power and the Sovereign Exception

- Schmitt, C. 2005 [1922]. "The Definition of Sovereignty." In *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*.
- Schmitt, C. 1996 [1932]. 2-3 in *The Concept of the Political*.
- Benjamin, W. 1978. "Critique of Violence." In *Reflections*.
- Agamben, G. 1998. Intro, Part 1 and Part 3 of *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*.

Counterpoint:

- Jennings, R. 2011. "Sovereignty and Political Modernity: A Genealogy of Agamben's Critique of Sovereignty." *Anthropological Theory*. 11(1).

- Rancière, J. 2011. "Who is the Subject of the Rights of Man." In *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics*.

First Paper Assignment Distributed

October 7: Sovereignty and Globalization 1

- Brown, W. 2010. "Waning Sovereignty, Walled Democracy." In *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*.
- Sassen, S. 1996. "The State and the New Geography of Power." In *Losing Control? Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization*.
- Agnew, J. 2009. "Globalization and State Sovereignty." In *Globalization and Sovereignty*.

Counterpoint:

- Robinson, W. 2001. "Social Theory and Globalization: The Rise of the Transnational State." *Theory and Society*. 30.

October 14: No Class, Fall Break

October 16: First Paper Due on Moodle by Midnight

October 21: Sovereignty and Globalization 2

- Sparke, M. 2006. "A Neoliberal Nexus: Economy, Security, and the Biopolitics of Citizenship on the Border." *Political Geography*. 25.
- Barnett, M. 2010. "The New United Nations Politics of Peace: From Juridical Sovereignty to Empirical Sovereignty." In *The International Humanitarian Order*.
- Barkan, J. 2013. Selections from *Corporate Sovereignty: Law and Government Under Capitalism*.

Counterpoint:

- De Genova, N. 2010. "The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement." In *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement*.

October 28: S Sovereignty, Humanitarianism, and the Global War on Terror

- Elden, S. 2009. *Terror and Territory: The Spatial Extent of Sovereignty*.

Counterpoint:

- Amar, P. 2013. "The Archipelago of New Security-State Uprisings." In *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism*.

Proposal and abstract for final paper due

November 4: Sovereignty and the Border: Detention

- Mountz, A. 2010. *Seeking Asylum: Human Smuggling and Bureaucracy at the Border*.

Counterpoint:

- Salter, M. 2010. "When the Exception becomes the Rule: Borders, Sovereignty, and Citizenship." *Citizenship Studies*. 12(4).

November 11: Sovereignty and the Border: Business

- Chalfin, B. 2010. *Neoliberal Frontiers: An Ethnography of Sovereignty in West Africa*.

Counterpoint:

- Barkan, J. 2009. "Use Beyond Value: Giorgio Agamben and a Critique of Capitalism." *Rethinking Marxism*. 21(2).

November 18: Sovereignty and Extraterritoriality

Guest Lecture by Emily Ting Yeh. Associate Professor of Geography. University of Colorado, Boulder.

- Yeh, E. 2012. "Transnational Environmentalism and Entanglements of Sovereignty: The Tiger Campaign Across the Himalayas." *Political Geography*. 31.
- Vandergeest, P. and A. Unno. 2012. "A New Extraterritoriality? Aquaculture Certification, Sovereignty, and Empire." *Political Geography*. 31.
- Lundstrum, E. 2013. "Articulated Sovereignty: Extending Mozambican State Power through the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park." *Political Geography*.

Counterpoint:

- Monsutti, A. 2012. "Fuzzy Sovereignty: Rural Reconstruction in Afghanistan, between Democracy Promotion and Power Games." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 54(3).

November 25: Enclave Economies

- Palan, R. 2002. "Tax Havens and the Commercialization of State Sovereignty." *International Organization*. 56(1).
- Nyíri, P. 2012. "Enclaves of Improvement: Sovereignty and Developmentalism in the Special Economic Zones of the China-Lao Borderland." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 54(3).
- Levien, M. "The Land Question: Special Economic Zones and the Political Economy of Dispossession in India." *Journal of Peasant Studies*. 39 (3-4).

Counterpoint:

- Ferguson, J. 2005. "Seeing Like an Oil Company: Space, Security, and Global Capital in Neoliberal Africa." *American Anthropologist*. 107(3).

December 2: Sovereignty, Autonomy, and Inclusion

Guest Lecture by Townsend Middleton. Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

- Middleton, T. 2011. "Across the Interface of State Ethnography: Rethinking Ethnology and Its Subjects in Multicultural India." *American Ethnologist*. 38(2).
- Reyes, A. and M. Kaufman. 2011. "Sovereignty, Indigeneity, Territory: Zapatista Autonomy and the New Practices of Decolonization." *The South Atlantic Quarterly*. 110(2).
- Nadasdy, P. 2012. "Boundaries Among Kin: Sovereignty, the Modern Treaty Process, and the Rise of Ethno-Territorial Nationalism among Yukon First Nations." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 54(3).

Counterpoint:

- Rifkin, M. 2009. "Indigenizing Agamben: Rethinking Sovereignty in light of the 'Peculiar' Status of Native People." *Cultural Critique*. 73.

Draft of final paper due: Bring Copies to Class

December 9: Re/Un-Thinking Sovereignty--Lateral moves and bottom-up perspectives

- Dunn, E. and J. Cons. 2014. "Aleatory Sovereignty and the Rule of Sensitive Space." *Antipode*.
- Greenberg, J. 2011. "On the Road to Normal: Negotiating Agency and State Sovereignty in Postsocialist Serbia." *American Anthropologist*. 113(1).
- Humphrey, C. 2004. "Sovereignty." In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*.

Counterpoint:

- Singh, B. 2012. "The Headless Horseman of Central India: Sovereignty at Varying Thresholds of Life." *Cultural Anthropology*. 27(2).

December 12: Final paper due on Moodle at 10:30 PM