Politics 328
PIRATES, PRIESTS AND PROTESTORS:
NON-STATE ACTORS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Spring 2010
Tuesdays 7-8:50pm, King 235
3SS credits

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Themes. Non-state actors have long influenced the use of violence, the creation of norms, and the distribution of wealth that guide relations among states. They increasingly challenge the traditional state system and thus the underlying structure of international politics. Yet what approaches exist to analyzing the diverse range of non-state actors? How do non-state actors form and evolve? When do they act as challengers to states, and when do they serve to reinforce state capacity? How do non-state actors influence norm building and policy making? What does their influence signify for the future of international politics? We take up such questions as we examine several types of non-state actors, including transnational advocacy networks, NGOs, transnational corporations, transnational criminal networks, private security providers, terrorist groups, and urban squatter populations.

Goals. This seminar is designed to provide students with 1) a conceptual framework for understanding the role of non-state actors in the international system 2) an empirical base of knowledge about the historical and contemporary impact of non-state actors and the various forms and purposes these assume in practice and 3) guidance as they conduct research and write a substantial analytical paper on a topic related to the course.

Active and collegial student participation is an essential component of the course. For our weekly sessions, students will prepare short written responses to the readings and post them on the course discussion board; each week students will pair up to prepare the agenda and lead class discussion; students will read and critique each other’s draft research papers; and in the final segment of the course each student will a presentation from his/her research paper in the class. These activities are intended to provide students with the opportunity to refine their analytical skills, to practice their ability to shape and participate in class discussions, and to develop critical-constructive abilities in assessing the work of their peers.

Structure. The course develops in three parts. Part I provides a conceptual overview of the state-based international environment and of how non-state actors fit into this context. Part II examines several different types of non-state actors – how they have evolved, what they do, how
they matter in shaping (and being shaped by) existing dynamics in the international system. Part III is devoted to students’ research presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Regular attendance in each class, reading of the assigned texts well before class, and active discussion of the texts and issues are essential for success of the course. The readings require critical evaluation and debate for class discussions and provide theoretical and empirical stimuli for your research projects.

In addition to weekly preparations for class, students will complete a research paper (20-25 pages) on a topic directly relevant to the course. During the last weeks of the course, students will present core components of their research papers for discussion in the seminar. Papers should be theoretically driven by a research question and at least one specified hypothesis; they should also indicate the theoretical and practical implications of your findings.

Grades are based on three components of the course:
- 30% toward class participation; this includes attendance, weekly postings (about 100-200 words in length) to the on-line Blackboard discussion by noon the day before class, and leading class discussion together with a classmate once during the semester.
- 20% toward presentation of your own project and discussion of other students’ projects during the last weeks of the course.
- 50% toward the research paper. This includes the research proposal (10%), annotated bibliography (5%), draft paper (given an interim grade to guide student expectations) and final paper (35%).

ACADEMIC STANDARDS
All academic work for the course must meet the standards of the Honor Code. Please be sure you are familiar with it and see me if you have questions about how it applies in assignments for the course. In addition, the following terms apply to paper-related assignment due dates. Due dates are firm and not negotiable; you should plan ahead to be able to meet them. Late assignments will receive a lower grade (2-step grade reduction per day, e.g. from B to C+); assignments submitted more than 5 days (120 hours) late receive an automatic F. Students must complete all components of the course in order to qualify for a passing grade. If you are unable to submit assignments to me as due in class, be sure to hand them in to me personally or to Ms. Tucker in the Politics Department to have a proper record of the submission (do not shove papers under my office door – email if necessary as a Word document). Only extreme circumstances such as medical or family emergencies, may warrant exceptions to these terms.

I request that any students with a documented disability needing academic accommodations speak with Jane Boomer, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (G-27 Peters Hall) and with me as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential.

READINGS
Several books are recommended for purchase, as noted below. Assigned readings are available from at least one of the following sources: download from Blackboard (BB), purchase at the
Oberlin College Bookstore (OC), borrow from Mudd Library reserves (R). It is possible that there will be some changes to the readings/topics scheduled in the syllabus.


I. CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS:
THE STATE, SOVEREIGNTY AND ORDER IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Week 1: February 9. Introduction
1) Moises Naim, *Illicit*, ch. 13. BB

Week 2: February 16. The State and its Challengers
4) Kumi Naidoo, “Claiming Global Power: Transnational Civil Society and Global Governance,” in TCS ch. 3. OC, BB

II. NON-STATE ACTORS:
CHALLENGERS, PARTNERS, OR SUBALTERNS OF THE STATE SYSTEM?

Week 3: February 23. Transnational Advocacy Networks
1) Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* chs. 1, 3, 6. OC, R

Week 4: February 2. NGOs in Practice
1) P.J. Simmons, “Learning to Live with NGOs,” *Foreign Policy* (Fall 1998), 82-96. BB


4) Your choice of at least one additional reading under “NGOs in Practice” in BB.

**Week 5: March 9. Transnational Corporations**


**Week 6: March 16. Transnational Criminal Networks**

1) Phil Williams, “Transnational Organized Crime and the State,” in Rodney Bruce Hall and Thomas J. Biersteker, eds., *The Emergence of Private Authority in Global Governance* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002), ch. 8 **BB**

2) Naim, *Illicit*, chs. 1-3, 9-12. **OC, R**

**Week 7: March 23. Library Research Session.** Meet in Mudd, classroom TBA.

*************** Proposal for Research Paper Due.***************

**Week 8: March 30. No Class, Spring Break.**

**Week 9: April 6. Private Security Providers**


4) Additional text TBA.

**Week 10: April 13. Terrorist Groups**

*************** Annotated Bibliography Due.***************


**Week 11: April 20. Urban Squatter Populations**
1) Neuwirth, *Shadow Cities* Prologue; choose one from chs 1-4; chs. 7-9. OC, R

III. STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

**Week 12:** April 27. Student Research Presentations

*************** Draft of Research Paper Due.

**Week 13:** May 4. Student Research Presentations

**Week 14:** May 11. Student Research Presentations and Course Wrap-Up

FINAL PAPERS DUE BEFORE 5pm on Thursday, May 20.

Rev 2/3/10