This course is designed to acquaint students with the early-modern and modern theories of the state, its obligations and duties, and to test these theories in actual history from the French Revolution to the present. We focus on the duties of states to their subjects/citizens and to the other states in the state community. We examine some of the conditions under which states “fail” and the possible consequences of that failure.

**Course Requirements**
1. This is a seminar, so its success rests with its participants. Everyone must read carefully all of the assigned readings for the particular day and participate actively in the discussion.
2. Every week each student must write a SHORT paragraph summarizing the chief argument(s) contained in the readings for both the Monday and Wednesday sessions. Also, choose at least one quotation on which we ought to focus our discussion. The paragraphs must be handed in in hard copy at the beginning of class.
3. Everyone will submit a five-page paper on anything we have read up to that point, due in class on Wed., 15 Feb. This paper will not be graded; its purpose is diagnostic.
4. Each student must prepare and deliver a ten-minute introduction to the discussion for one session and submit a five-page essay on the readings and/or optional readings.
5. A final, ten-page essay is due on the last day of class. More information on this paper is in the “Information on Papers” available on the Course Website under Course Information.

**Grading Percentages:**
- Participation, reading summaries, and peer feedback on final essay = 50%
- Introduction to session and paper = 25%
- Final paper = 25%

**Required Readings:**
You should purchase these three books:

All other required readings are either available online as articles (go through the Library Website and search for them under articles), online via academic websites (like the Avalon Project from Yale University), or on the Course Website under “Course Documents.” The latter are indicated by a *. Optional readings are just that, optional, but discussion-introducers might profit from using them.
DISCUSSION SESSIONS

I. Wed. 25 Jan.  INTRODUCTION

II. M. 30 Jan. WHAT IS A STATE?

W. 1 Feb.  ABSOLUTISM


III. M. 6 Feb. POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

  W. 8 Feb.  POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY
  Laslett, Peter, “The social and political theory of Two Treatises of Government,” ibid., 93-122.


IV. M. 13 Feb. RULE OF LAW
  Murphy, Colleen, “Lon Fuller and the Moral Value of the Rule of Law,” Law and Philosophy 24:3 (May, 2005), 239-262

W. 15 Feb.  LEGITIMACY

W. 15 Feb: DUE: 5-PAGE DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY
V. M. 20 Feb. NO CLASS [FEB. BREAK]

W. 22 Feb. THE FOUNDATIONS OF ANCIEN RÉGIME FRANCE
(New York: Doubleday, 1983)

VI. M. 27 Feb. BREAKING THE CONTRACT

W. 1 Mar. REVOLUTION
U.S. Declaration of Independence [available online at the Avalon Project]
French Declaration of the Rights of Man [Avalon Project]
*Kant, Immanuel, “General remarks on the legal consequences of the nature of the civil union,” in *Metaphysics of Morals*, 143-47 (Kant’s Political Writings).

VII. M. 6 Mar. PUTTING EUROPE TOGETHER AGAIN: THE FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION
*Scoedler, Paul W., Ch. 12, “The Congress of Vienna: An appraisal,” 575-82, in Schroeder, *The Transformation of European Politics* [894 pp]

W. 8 Mar. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

VIII. M. 13 Mar. INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS
*Kant, Immanuel, “Perpetual Peace,” in Kant’s Political Writings, ed. Hans Reiss (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ), 93-115 [not the Appendices]
*UN Charter: Arts. 1 & 2, 39-51 (Chapter 7) [UN Website]

W. 15 Mar. SERBIA 1914

Clark, Christopher, The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914 (New York: Harper-Collins, 2012), Ch. 1

IX. M. 20 Mar. SERBIA, CONT.


W. 22 Mar. RESPONSES to the AUSTRO-SERB CRISIS


*All of the following readings are on the Course Website under “July Crisis”:


Austrian note to Serbia, Geiss, July 1914, 142-46.

Lichnowsky to Jagow, 24.7.1914, Geiss, 183-84 [Grey’s suggestion for 4-power conference. Ultimatum is incompatible w. Serb Sov; KW2 marginalia on disappearance of Serb. Lichn. on Serb. being an uncivilized state.

Serbian reply, 25.7.1914, 201-04

Buchanan to Grey, 25.7.1914: Sazonov says Rus will submit to 4-Power conference and Serbia might submit to arbitration. 213-14

Bethmann to Lichnowsky, Tel. 179 27.7.1914: refusing to “drag Aus before a Eur tribunal.” 237-38

Pourtalès to Jagow, 27.7.1914: Rus: punish Serbia, but spare its Sov. 241-42

Bethmann to Lichnowsky, 28.7.1914: Aus wants no Serb territory, nor to end the existence of the Serb state. 243-44

Bienvenue-Martin to Jules Cambon, 27.7.1914: Entente got Serbia to accept most of Ultimatum [confirmed by Cornwall]. D must now get Aus to stop.

Optional: Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Act, Ch. 2. (Attribution of Conduct to a State)

X. M. 27 Mar. RESPONSES to the AUSTRO-SERB CRISIS (Allied judgment of Germany)

W. 29 Mar.  SESSION ON WRITING ESSAYS IN HISTORY

M. 3 Apr.  NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK
W. 5 Apr.  NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

XI. M. 10 Apr. NATIONAL SOCIALIST DICTATORSHIP

W. 12 Apr. NS DICTATORSHIP/RESPONSES
Moscow Declaration 1943 [avail. online at the Avalon Project]

XII. M. 17 Apr. NS: RESPONSES ON GERMANY’S LEGAL STATUS
Kelsen, Hans, “The International Status of Germany to be established immediately upon termination of the war,” American Journal of International Law 38 (1944), 689-94.
Piotrowicz, Ryszard W., “The Status of Germany in International Law: Deutschland über Deutschland?,” British Institute of International and Comparative Law 38:3 (Jul. 1989), 609-14 [full article is 609-635]
W. 19 Apr. COLONIAL BACKGROUND TO SYRIA/IRAQ

XIII. M. 24 Apr. STATES AND QUASI-STATES

W. 26 Apr. SYRIA: ARAB Spring

XIV. M. May 1   ISIS

   W. 3 May   RESPONSES TO ISIS
   UN Charter, Chapter 7 [UN Website]

Friday May 5th: **FIRST DRAFT OF PAPERS DUE ELECTRONICALLY TO MEMBERS OF YOUR PEER-GROUP AND TO PROFESSOR**

XV. M. 8 May   DISCUSSION OF PAPERS (PEER FEEDBACK)

   W. 10 May   **FINAL PAPERS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**