

AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT & PATTERNS OF CHANGE



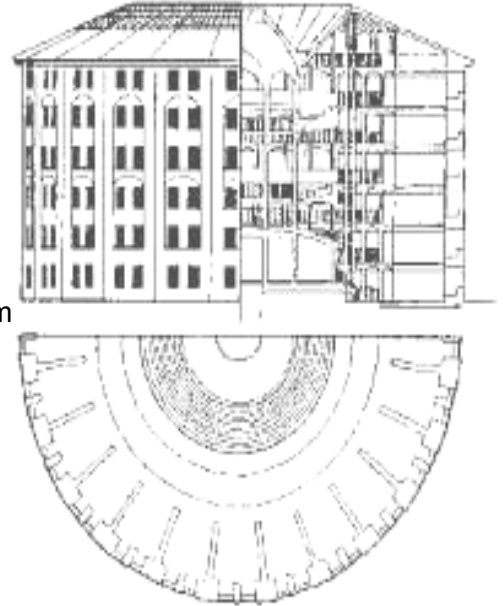
Dr. Ian Douglas

Visiting Professor
Department of Political Science

Spring semester, 2005

Class hours: Sat, Mon, Wed, 2-3pm
Office hours: Sat, Mon, Wed, 9-11am

Office: Room 6-2200
Email: ian@powerfoundation.org



The History of the World is not intelligible apart from a
Government of the World
— *Wilhem Von Humboldt*

Man is made fit for Society not by Nature, but by Discipline
— *Thomas Hobbes*

The disciplining of society in the age of absolutism may perhaps be
compared with another great process in the history of the modern state,
that of democratization in the Nineteenth century
— *Gerhard Oestreich*

Palestine is on the verge of establishing a state. The question is, what kind of state? Political development and patterns of political change occur within the context of a broader history rarely admitted into the field of political analysis. This broader history is the history of forms of the government of men. By “government” we must understand not simply the specifics of an institutional arrangement (e.g., what kind of parliament or legislation a given country may have), but arrangements of power relations which respond to broad and specific challenges to the “order of things,” as well as the principles by which live populations—rather like livestock—are organized, deployed and made effective. This course will pose deep questions about the nature of the state in historical perspective, in particular attempting to reveal the rationalities upon which “modern states” are founded, in order to reveal the true nature of contemporary political systems, and what probabilities exist with regard to the formation of new states like “Palestine”.

CLASS TEXT

Class Reader (a selection of articles)

WHERE TO FIND THE CLASS TEXT

Go to “Maktaba Farrah”—a photocopying and stationary shop near to the west gate of An-Najah University. Ask for the “Class Reader” for Dr. Douglas’s “Political Development” class.

Additional notes and readings may be provided as the semester progresses.

BACKGROUND TEXTS

These are not required readings but you would do well to try to leaf through these two books. You would learn more from these texts than a hundred essays put together. Copies are available in An-Najah University library.

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Pantheon, 1977)
Martin van Crevald, *The Rise and Decline of the State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

CLASS ORGANIZATION

The class will be a mixture of me talking and us talking. We should remain flexible and find the best way for you to benefit.

In general terms, I believe that my role as a professor is not to think for you, but rather to offer interpretations that make **you** think. My role is not to be the “Voice of Truth”, but rather a guide to help you weigh up the issues and find your own voice.

You must read for this class. If you don't read we will have nothing to talk about, you won't learn anything, and you won't understand what I say—even if I were to say it in Arabic!

Every week I will endeavor to provide brief summaries of the readings in English and one page of key points translated to Arabic.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of this course will be divided as follows:

Written assignment #1	(due in the 7 th week)	20%
Written assignment #2	(due in the 12 th week)	45%
Final exam (Oral)	(starting in the 12 th week)	25%
Class participation		10%

Written assignments will take the form of two short essays, the first of which must be at least 4 pages in length (not including references), the second of which must be 6 pages in length (not including references).

Your task in these assignments is to respond critically and thoughtfully to a specific question. A list of questions will be distributed for each essay assignment. When preparing research papers you must respond only to questions that I assign. Essays that do not address a question I assign will not be accepted.

Essays should normally be typed and be in English.

GRADING GUIDELINES

90% to 100% = Excellent grasp of the literature with evidence of independent thought and argument. Evidence that the student went beyond the in-class readings.

80% to 90% = Very good grasp of main themes but inconclusive. Technically very good, but lacking in individual insight.

70% to 80% = A good effort but perhaps confused or confusing. Proof read your work! Many “C” grade essays could be much improved if simply proof read and thought about for a couple of hours more.

60% - 70% = A passing grade. Competent but displaying little in the way of real effort. Often simply repetitious of in-class readings.

Below 60% = Will often be “off-topic” (e.g., talking about the Palestinian question out of context), or very poorly structured or written. Will display no independent thought and little familiarity with issues or key texts.

Please note: I am not here to correct your English spelling or grammar, but please spell-check your work and try to make it readable in English.

CLASS RULES

No one can be forced to learn so we will have no rules, but please come to class for the next 3 months with the following:

1. **PATIENCE.** I know this class will be difficult for you in English. Please be patient. I am here to help you as much as I can.
2. **ATTENTIVENESS.** I will aim to convey the essence of this subject in simple terms. Please help me by remaining attentive.
3. **HONESTY.** Plagiarism (pretending that other people’s work is your own) defeats the point of you being at university. You are not here simply to gain a certificate. You are here to gain knowledge that will help you and others in this difficult but vital adventure we call life.
4. **CURIOSITY.** “Dare to Know!” said Immanuel Kant. Knowledge is not merely enriching, it is the foundation of resistance to power.

COURSE OUTLINE

During the semester there will be at least two “reading weeks”, at dates to be confirmed.

Week 0. Introduction

Session 1-3. Class organization / introduction to themes & concepts

PART ONE: INTRODUCING “THE STATE”

Week 1. Central Perspectives on the Modern State

Session 1. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 29-32

Session 2. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 32-42

Session 3. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 32-42

Week 2. Central Perspectives on the Modern State

Session 1. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 42-61

Session 2. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 42-61

Session 3. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 42-61

Week 3. Central Perspectives on the Modern State

Session 1. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 61-73

Session 2. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 61-73

Session 3. Held, “Central Perspectives”, pp. 61-73

PART TWO: ABSOLUTISM

Week 4. The Nature of the Absolutist (Sovereign) State

Session 1. Anderson, “Absolutist States”, pp. 137-141

Session 2. Anderson, “Absolutist States”, pp. 141-147

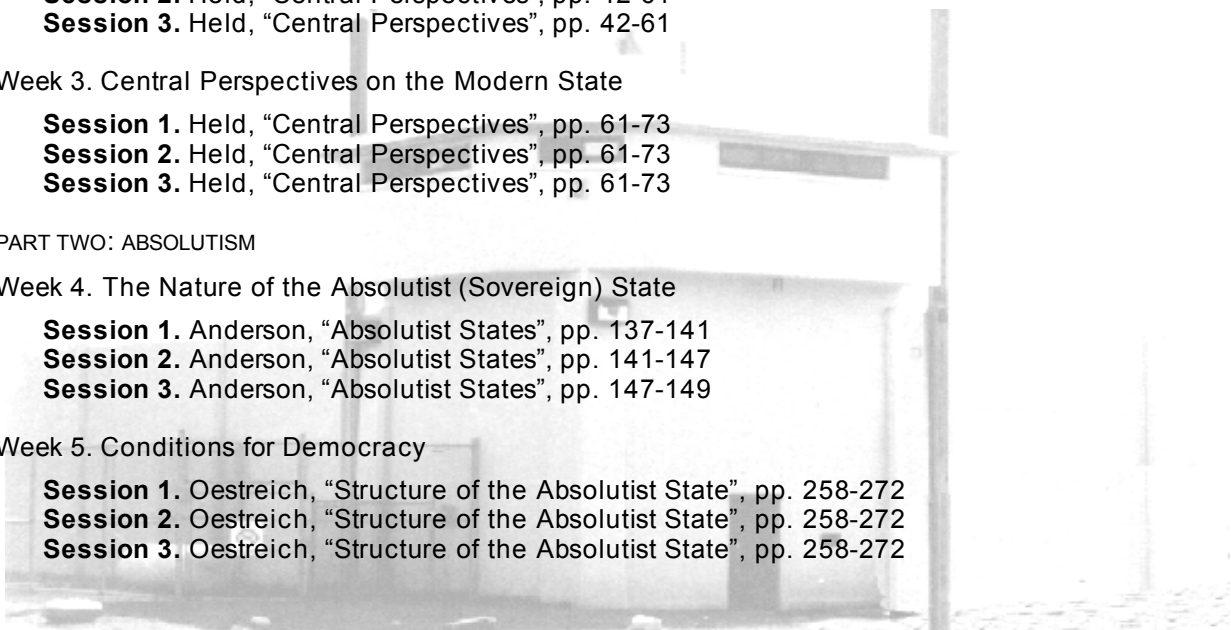
Session 3. Anderson, “Absolutist States”, pp. 147-149

Week 5. Conditions for Democracy

Session 1. Oestreich, “Structure of the Absolutist State”, pp. 258-272

Session 2. Oestreich, “Structure of the Absolutist State”, pp. 258-272

Session 3. Oestreich, “Structure of the Absolutist State”, pp. 258-272



PART THREE: THE MODERN STATE

Week 6. The Evolution of Systems of Power

- Session 1.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 78-92
- Session 2.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 78-92
- Session 3.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 78-92

Week 7. From Sovereign Power to Biopower

- Session 1.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 92-108
- Session 2.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 92-108
- Session 3.** Foucault, "Two Lectures", pp. 92-108

Week 8. The New Control of Human Life

- Session 1.** Foucault, "Right of Death", pp. 258-267
- Session 2.** Foucault, "Right of Death", pp. 258-267
- Session 3.** Foucault, "Right of Death", pp. 267-272

Week 9. Technologies of Political Control

- Session 1.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 135-153
- Session 2.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 135-153
- Session 3.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 135-153

Week 10. "Discipline"

- Session 1.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 154-169
- Session 2.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 154-169
- Session 3.** Foucault, "Docile Bodies", pp. 154-169

Week 11. Anonymous Systems of Power

- Session 1.** Foucault, "The Eye of Power", pp. 147-165
- Session 2.** Foucault, "The Eye of Power", pp. 147-165
- Session 3.** Foucault, "The Eye of Power", pp. 147-165

PART FOUR: THE POST-MODERN STATE

Week 12. Control Societies

- Session 1.** Deleuze, "Postscript on Control Societies", pp. 177-182
- Session 2.** Deleuze, "Postscript on Control Societies", pp. 177-182
- Session 3.** Guattari, "The Postmodern Dead End", pp. 40-41

Oral examinations will follow the conclusion of the course.



... What blindness, what deafness, what density of ideology would have to weigh me down to prevent me from being interested in what is probably the most crucial subject to our existence, that is to say the society in which we live, the economic relations within which it functions, and the system of power which defines the regular forms and the regular permissions and prohibitions of our conduct. The essence of our life consists, after all, of the political functioning of the society in which we find ourselves ... — *Michel Foucault*