

POL 631: Global Non-State Actors
(Research Seminar in International Relations)
Spring 2021

Wednesday, 3:30 - 6:20 pm, Zoom (link on Brightspace)

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Course Description

This is a graduate research course in International Relations, designed to introduce you to the power of global non-state actors like corporations, NGOs, and gangs, along with their relationships to governments and people. One purpose is to dive deeper to understand actors and organizations of increasing importance to global affairs. Another purpose is to cultivate your research sensibilities through thinking, investigating, writing, and talking about a research project of your choosing related to the course.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Synthesize major debates in the study of global non-state actors;
2. Analyze arguments of texts and your peers in discussion;
3. Produce a research paper with original argument, data, and analysis; and
4. Deliver an oral presentation on your research.

Required Texts

Most readings will be available on Brightspace, *except* for these required books:

1. Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*.
2. Mikler, John. 2018. *The Political Power of Global Corporations*.

These required books are available online through Purdue's library:

1. Booth, Wayne, Gregory Colomb, Joseph Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William Fitzgerald. 2016. *The Craft of Research*, 4th Edition.
2. Thomson, Janice. 1994. *Mercenaries, Pirates, Sovereigns: State-Building and Extraterritorial Violence in Early Modern Europe*.

3. Stroup, Sarah and Wendy Wong. 2017. *The Authority Trap: Strategic Choices of International NGOs*.

Course Load

As there is a substantial research paper requirement for this class, the reading is front-loaded so you have time to research and write the paper in the last third of the course.

Course Requirements

Class Participation:	20%	due every class
Weekly response posts:	15%	due every class, weeks 2-11
Research Paper:	65%	
<i>What and Why:</i>	10%	due week 8
<i>How:</i>	20%	due week 12
<i>Class Presentation:</i>	10%	due week 15
<i>Final paper:</i>	25%	due finals week

Assignments

Participation:

I expect you to participate thoughtfully and consistently. The seminar will be driven by discussions rather than lectures. Come well-prepared: keep up with the readings, bring a readily accessible copy to class, and contribute to the conversation.

Weekly posts:

You will post reading responses on Brightspace by Noon on Wednesdays. The post should be 200 words and pose a question and response on any aspect of any reading(s) for that week. I will use these posts to guide our class discussion so be ready to elaborate on your points. You may *miss one post* without penalty with no excuse necessary.

Research Paper:

You will produce a 20-paged (double-spaced) research paper. The research paper will be on a topic closely related to global non-state actors. You may do a case study on one actor, compare multiple actors, or study the relationship between a specific nonstate actor and states. The paper must have original research, meaning you must analyze some data instead of exclusively relying on secondary sources. Most likely, your data will be archival or will make use of existing datasets. There is flexibility in what type of methods you choose – historical, interpretive, quantitative, etc.

The research paper will be broken up into many small sub-components that you will revise over the course of the class. Detailed instructions will be available in due course, but follow these page limits:

<i>What and Why:</i>	6 pages (Question, motivation, literature review)
<i>How:</i>	12 pages (Theory/Argument)
<i>Final paper:</i>	20 pages (Data analysis and implications)

You must use the APSA Style Manual (2018 edition) for formatting and citations.

You will also give a 10-minute class presentation on your paper by outlining your question, motivation, literature review, theory, data, and implications as in a conference presentation. This will be followed by a 5-minute Q&A.

Grading

Guidelines for grading correspond to student performance where,

- A — Outstanding achievement
- B — Very good, commendable achievement
- C — Satisfactory achievement
- D — Minimum performance
- F — Failure without credit

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

A+ = 100-97.5%	B+ = 89.5 - 87.5%	C+ = 79.5 - 77.5%	D+ = 69.5 - 67.5%
A = 97 - 93%	B = 87 - 83%	C = 77 - 73%	D = 67 - 60%
A - = 92.5 - 90%	B- = 82.5 - 80%	C- = 72.5 - 70%	F = 59.5% and below

Policies

1. You should participate on Zoom through a device with video capability and your video should be turned on during the duration of the class. You should mute yourself except when talking.
2. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours to your emails, except after 6 pm and on weekends. If you do not hear from me, feel free to check in.
3. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at drc@purdue.edu or 765-494-1247.
4. Thoroughly cite all paraphrased and quoted material in your weekly posts and short papers. You are responsible for knowing Purdue's policy regarding [academic integrity](#).
5. Be mindful of Purdue's [honor pledge](#) and give others the same respect you would like to receive in our classroom.
6. The syllabus is subject to change with fair notice.

COVID-19

Quarantine:

If you become quarantined or isolated at any point in time during the semester, in addition to support from the Protect Purdue Health Center, you will also have access to an Academic Case Manager who can provide you academic support during this time. Your Academic Case Manager can be reached at acmq@purdue.edu and will provide you with general guidelines/resources around communicating with your instructors, be available for academic support, and offer suggestions for how to be successful when learning remotely. Importantly, if you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify your academic case manager and notify me via email or Brightspace. We will make arrangements based on your particular situation. The Office of the Dean of Students (odos@purdue.edu) is also available to support you should this situation occur.

Attendance:

I expect you to attend all virtual classes and participate thoughtfully and consistently. However, you should feel free to miss any class and contact the Protect Purdue Health Center (496-INFO) if you feel ill, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or suspect you have been exposed to the virus. For unanticipated or emergency conflict, when advance notification is not possible, you should contact me as soon as possible by email. You may also contact the Office of the Dean of Students via [email](#) or phone at 765-494-1747. Our course Brightspace includes a link on Attendance and Grief Absence policies under the University Policies menu.

Course Schedule

The course is organized as weekly themes on the following:

Frameworks: State v. Non-State; Theories of Non-State Power

Types of Non-State Actors: Organized Crime; Corporations; Big Tech; NGOs; Organized Religion; Regulators; Terrorists.

Gender balance of authors: 65% men, 35% women.

Important: Read the assignments in the order listed.

WEEK ONE	
<p>1/20 Writing a Research Paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. <i>Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science</i>. Chapters 1, 2. ❖ Booth, Wayne, Gregory Colomb, Joseph Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William Fitzgerald. 2016. <i>The Craft of Research</i>, 4th Edition. Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6.
WEEK TWO	
<p>1/27 State v. Non-State</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weber, Max. 1919. "Politics as a Vocation." ❖ Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." ❖ Thomson, Janice. 1994. <i>Mercenaries, Pirates, Sovereigns: State-Building and Extraterritorial Violence in Early Modern Europe</i>, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.
WEEK THREE	
<p>2/3 Theories of Non-State Power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cutler, Claire, Virginia Haufler, and Tony Porter, eds. 1999. <i>Private Authority and International Affairs</i>. Chapter 1. ❖ Hall, Rodney Bruce and Thomas J. Biersteker, eds. 2002. <i>The Emergence of Private Authority in Global Governance</i>, Chapter 1. ❖ Green, Jessica F. 2014. <i>Rethinking Private Authority: Agents and Entrepreneurs in Global Environmental Governance</i>, Introduction. ❖ Srivastava, Swati. <i>Hybrid Sovereignty in World Politics</i>, Introduction, Chapter 1.
WEEK FOUR	
<p>2/10 Organized Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2008. <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i>. Chapters 1, 2. ❖ Varese, Federico. 2018. <i>Mafia Life: Love, Death and Money at the Heart of Organised Crime</i>. Chapters 1, 2, Appendix. ❖ Sullivan, John P. and Robert J. Bunker. 2002. "Drug Cartels, Street Gangs, and Warlords."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Flanigan, Shawn Teresa. 2012. "Terrorists Next Door? A Comparison of Mexican Drug Cartels and Middle Eastern Terrorist Organizations."
WEEK FIVE	
2/17	No Class: Reading Day
WEEK SIX	
2/24 Corporations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fuchs, Doris. 2013. "Theorizing the Power of Global Companies." ❖ Mikler, John. 2018. <i>The Political Power of Global Corporations</i>, Chapters 1, 2, 5. ❖ Bernstein, Steven and Benjamin Cashore. 2007. "Can Non-State Global Governance Be Legitimate? An Analytical Framework." ❖ Srivastava, Swati. "Corporate Sovereign Awakening and the Making of Modern Sovereignty: New Archival Evidence from the English East India Company."
WEEK SEVEN	
3/3 Big Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Galloway, Scott. 2018. <i>The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google</i>. Chapters 2, 5. ❖ Siva Vaidhyanathan. 2018. <i>Antisocial Media</i>, Chapters 6, 7. ❖ Zuboff, Shoshana. 2019. "Surveillance Capitalism and the Challenge of Collective Action."
WEEK EIGHT	
3/10 NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. <i>Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics</i>, Chapter 1. ❖ Cooley, Alex and James Ron. 2002. "The NGO Scramble." ❖ Stroup, Sarah and Wendy Wong. 2017. <i>The Authority Trap: Strategic Choices of International NGOs</i>. Chapters 1, 3. ❖ Srivastava, Swati. Forthcoming. "Negotiating NGO-Government Relations in Human Rights: New Archival Evidence from Amnesty International, 1961-1986."

	**** Paper One due on Sunday, 3/14 ****
WEEK NINE	
3/17 Organized Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ryall, David. 2001. "The Catholic Church as a Transnational Actor." ❖ Agensky, Jonathan. 2019. "Evangelical Globalism and the Internationalization of Sudan's Second Civil War." ❖ Byman, Daniel. 2016. "Understanding the Islamic State – A Review Essay." ❖ Glaab, Katharina and Fuchs Doris. 2018. "Green Faith? The Role of Faith-Based Actors in Global Sustainable Development Discourse."
WEEK TEN	
3/24 Lobbyists and Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mearsheimer, John and Stephen Walt. 2007. <i>The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy</i>. Chapters 1, 4. ❖ Buthe, Tim, and Walter Mattli. 2011. <i>The New Global Rulers: The Privatization of Regulation in the World Economy</i>. Chapters 1, 2. ❖ Avant, Deborah and Renee de Nevers. 2011. "Military Contractors and the American Way of War."
WEEK ELEVEN	
3/31 Terrorists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chaliand, Gerard and Arnaud Blin. 2016. <i>The History of Terrorism: From Antiquity to ISIS</i>. Chapters 2, 11. ❖ Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." ❖ Mueller, John and Mark Stewart. 2012. "The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11." ❖ Nagtzaam, Gerry and Pete Lentini. 2007. "Vigilantes on the High Seas?: The Sea Shepherds and Political Violence."
WEEK TWELVE	
4/7	No Class: Paper Research & Writing
	**** Paper Two due on Sunday, 4/11 ****

WEEK THIRTEEN	
4/14	<p>❖ You will be assigned 2 papers of your peers</p> <p>****Peer Review in class ****</p>
WEEK FOURTEEN	
4/21	No Class: Paper Research & Writing
WEEK FIFTEEN	
4/28	Paper Presentations
FINALS WEEK	
5/7	****Final Paper due on Friday, 5/7****