

**Special Lecture on Transnational Relations:
International Statebuilding**

(Spring Semester Intensive, 2 Credits) David CHANDLER

Theme and Objectives

This course provides an insight into contemporary theorising and practice in transnational relations through focusing on international statebuilding. International statebuilding is seen to be a key way to address problems of international security, democratisation and development. International statebuilding frameworks of intervention and regulation are premised on the ideas of institutional and societal capacity-building and empowerment. We will look at leading academic works on this subject and engage with why international statebuilding focuses on institutional, administrative and technical processes, where the ‘rule of law’, anti-corruption and human rights frameworks appear external to societal political processes. Students will also be introduced to the theoretical concept of liberal institutionalism (through the work of Douglass C. North) and to the critical concept of biopolitics (as developed by the French social theorist Michel Foucault). We will consider how these conceptual frameworks may assist in understanding the policy practices and discourses of international statebuilding.

Description and Schedule

There will be 15 lectures during this course. Each lecture will focus either on particular discourses and mechanisms of statebuilding or on discussing conceptual frameworks underpinning these ideas and practices. At the end of the course the students will have knowledge of a wide range of regulatory and interventionist policy practices which will be critically investigated within the frameworks of both liberal and non-liberal theorising. Description and schedule of each lecture follows:

Part One: Introductory

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course

In this lecture we will discuss the purpose and content of the course and establish student interests and concerns.

Lecture 2: Introduction to Statebuilding

In this lecture we consider the importance of international statebuilding for international relations – highlighting the development of statebuilding with regard to development, democracy and international security concerns.

Reading

Intro and Chap 1 in Ghani and Lockhart
Intro in Paris and Sisk

Lecture 3: Introduction to Statebuilding as the Production of Freedom

We consider how external statebuilding intervention in states is premised on their formal independence and legal sovereignty and the paradoxical hollowing out of the content of sovereign autonomy. Thus establishing the problematic of intervention premised on the production of freedom.

Reading

Chaps 1 & 2 in Chandler

Part Two: Liberal Institutionalism

Lecture 4: Introduction to Statebuilding as an Institutional Approach

In this lecture we will develop the understanding of governance as distinct from government and consider how statebuilding is a product of shifting approaches to the political sphere.

Reading

Chap 3 in Chandler

Lecture 5: Institutional approaches to Statebuilding

This lecture will expand upon the view of institutional functionality often expounded in the statebuilding literature.

Reading

Chaps 6 & 7 in Ghani and Lockhart

Lecture 6: The Implications of the Institutional Approach (1): The Problem of the Market

This lecture further explains the theoretical underpinnings of the liberal institutional discourse, highlighting that this is based upon a 'neoliberal' critique of the classical liberal assumptions of the rational individual and the unproblematic workings of the market.

Reading

Chaps 1-5 in North

Lecture 7: The Implications of the Institutional Approach (2): The Problem of the State

This lecture considers the paradoxical approach to the state taken by liberal institutional theory, where state intervention is considered necessary but also in need of restraint.

Reading

Chaps 6-7 in North

Lecture 2 in Foucault

Part Three: Intervention and Biopolitics

Lecture 8: The Paradox of International Statebuilding (1) The Liberal Peace 'Model'

This lecture analyses why many policy-making discourses are critical of 'liberal models' alleged to have been exported and to have failed. We investigate what the 'neoliberal' critique of liberalism implies for international statebuilding.

Reading

Chap 5 in Ghani and Lockhart

Chap 2 in Paris and Sisk

Lecture 9: The Paradox of International Statebuilding (2) The Crisis of Governmentality

In this lecture we counterpose a non-liberal critique of international statebuilding, drawing on the work of Foucault to suggest that the 'neoliberal critique' expresses a fundamental paradox which both drives and limits the statebuilding discourse.

Reading

Chap 13 in Paris and Sisk

Lecture 3 in Foucault

Lecture 10: The Birth of Biopolitics: Intervention through Institution-Building

This lecture draws out how statebuilding, as a problematic, refocuses critique from market relations to state institutions, recasting intervention as the freeing or empowering of the subject. The non-political goals of the rule of law and social inclusion replace state direction of society.

Reading

Lectures 5-7 in Foucault

Part Four: International Statebuilding

Lecture 11: Inversing the Relationships of Power (1) The Invisible Sovereign

Concluding our exploration of Foucault's work on biopolitics, we consider how the freedom and autonomy of the subject are essential for regulating authority to assert its powerlessness. The external statebuilders, by implication, become merely facilitators rather than interest-bearing actors in their own right.

Reading

Lectures 11-12 in Foucault

Lecture 12: Inversing the Relationships of Power (2) Country Ownership

This lecture considers further the discourse of the co-production of sovereignty and the capacity-building and empowerment of the Other at the centre of the international statebuilding framework.

Reading

Chap 4 in Chandler

Chaps 8 & 9 in Ghani and Lockhart

Lecture 13: Exporting the Rule of Law

At the heart of the institutional focus of international statebuilding is the export of the 'Rule of Law', we will consider in more detail what this means and what relations of power are enforced and reproduced through this.

Reading

Chaps 7 & 8 in Chandler

Part Five: Conclusions

Lecture 14: Statebuilding Policy Frameworks

In this lecture we will discuss and compare policy frameworks for statebuilding and consider how well our lecture programme has equipped us to understand and analyse them.

Reading

The lecturer will suggest a number of policy-oriented websites.

Lecture 15: Conclusions and Summing Up

In this lecture we will sum up the course and clarify the essay topics.

Evaluation

Students will be required to write one essay (700 words) on one of the above topics. There will be no written examination.

Key readings

David Chandler, *Empire in Denial: The Politics of Statebuilding* (Pluto Press, 2006)

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College de France 198-1979* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

Douglass C. North, *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance* (Cambridge University Press, 1990)

Roland Paris and Timothy Sisk (eds) *The Dilemmas of Statebuilding: Confronting the Contradictions of Postwar Peace Operations* (Routledge, 2009)

Other material will be provided by the lecturer if necessary.