This course focuses on the topics of state formation, state decay, and reconstruction in the wake of state ‘failure’ or collapse. We will pay particular attention to debates about international intervention in failed or failing states. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the following questions:

- What are the defining characteristics of the state; and, what are its key functions?
- What is state “failure”; and, how is it different from state “weakness”?
- Why do states “fail”? And, what are the consequences of such failure, both domestically (for the people who live in failed states) and internationally?
- Do failed states pose a threat to international security? If so, how?
- How should the international community respond to the political challenges and humanitarian crises caused by failed or failing states? What policies or practices might help to prevent state failure?
- What are the political and economic challenges and dilemmas associated with statebuilding in the wake of conflict?
- Can external actors be effective in promoting reconstruction?
- What are the key ethical issues associated with international intervention and statebuilding?
- Should military force ever be used to try to relieve the suffering caused by state failure?
- What can be done to promote social reconciliation in the wake of conflict and to create enduring peace?
- What is the relationship between statebuilding and peacebuilding?

We will examine contending scholarly perspectives on these issues; and, we will draw on a range of academic disciplines and fields (including international relations, sociology, comparative politics, and anthropology).

**Required Texts:**


Other required readings will include articles and book excerpts, which will be available electronically online or on reserve (via Canvas).

Course Requirements:

Undergraduate students:
First Essay (2500 words; due Oct. 11) 35%
Second Essay (2500 words; due Nov. 8) 35%
Presentation* (including a written component of 2000 words) 20%
Participation 10%

Graduate Students:
First Essay (2500 words; due Oct. 11) 25%
Second Essay (4000 words; due Nov. 8) 35%
Presentation* (including a written component of 2000 words, due Nov. 22) 20%
Participation 20%

* Please note: The presentation assignment will include some coordination and collaboration with other students; however, each student will be required to research, write, and submit their own individual written component for this assignment.

Essays and Presentation: I will distribute topics and instructions for the essays and for the presentation in class and will also post them on Canvas. The written component of the presentation assignment will be due November 22, at the beginning of class.

Submission of the Written Assignments:
Each assignment should be submitted electronically to Canvas AND to Turnitin.com by the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments that are not submitted to both websites by the deadline will be subject to a penalty.

Use the following procedures for electronic submission to Turnitin.com:
1. Go to http://turnitin.com
2. Login if you already have an account, or register yourself as a new user if you do not. Your e-mail address and a password of your choice are used for subsequent logins.
3. Login as a student and then click on "enroll in a class."
4. Use the following codes to enroll in the class:
   IS 409 – Class ID: 16039840; and, Enrollment Password: IS409States
   IS 806 – Class ID: 16039872; and, Enrollment Password: IS806States
5. Select the appropriate assignment from the pull-down menu.
6. Choose and upload your file.

If you wish, you can remove your name from the assignment to further protect your identity.
For technical assistance, e-mail: helpdesk@turnitin.com
For more information see the Protection of Privacy section of the SFU calendar at www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2014/spring/fees-and-regulations/student-contract/pop.html.
If you have a serious and principled objection to submitting your essay to Turnitin.com, I will offer you an alternative, which will involve submitting clear and detailed research notes that indicate what you have learned from your different research sources and how you have used them. To use this alternative method of submission, you must email your TA with an explanation of the reason(s) for your objection to using Turnitin.com, at least three weeks ahead of the essay deadline.

If you plan to submit your essay to Turnitin.com using a pseudonym or anonymous identity in your interactions with Turnitin.com, you must inform your TA two weeks prior to the deadline.

**Late essay policy:** Essays handed in after the deadline will lose five percentage points for each day or portion of a day they are late. Extensions will only be granted when unforeseeable and urgent circumstances that are beyond your control have prevented you from completing the work on time. In such cases, we will require supporting documentation (e.g. a note from a doctor.)

**Participation:** Participating in the seminar discussions is a central part of learning in this course. Marks will be based on active engagement in discussions, rather than on attendance (though attendance is of course necessary in order to participate). More specifically, this part of your grade will be based on: 1) the regularity or consistency of your participation in discussions throughout the semester; 2) your participation in and completion of in-class exercises; and, 3) the extent to which your contributions in class engage with the assigned readings (for example, by raising questions about them, by thoughtfully responding to or criticizing them, by comparing them to each other, by applying them in thoughtful ways to cases or current events, etc.) There will be no make-up credit for missed classes or for missed in-class assignments. The only exception to this policy will be for absences due to medical circumstances for which you can provide compelling documentation.

**Academic integrity:** I will strictly enforce the University’s policies on academic dishonesty in this course. There are significant penalties for violation of these policies. It is your responsibility to read and understand these policies. For more information, see the statement titled “Academic Integrity” at the end of this syllabus.

**Changes to the syllabus:** As the course proceeds, I may make changes to the assigned readings. Such changes will not increase the overall amount of required reading. Any changes will be announced in advance on Canvas and in class. Please check Canvas (and your related email notifications) regularly.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**WEEK 1 – Introduction (Sept. 6)**

WEEK 2 – Emergence of the Modern State; & Its Key Characteristics (Sept. 13)

Ghani & Lockhart, chapters 6-7, Fixing Failed States, pp. 115-166.


WEEK 3 – State Weakness and Failure: Definitions and Causes (Sept. 20)


Ghani & Lockhart, chapter 4, Fixing Failed States, pp. 65-84.


Recommended:
Ghani & Lockhart, chapter 5, Fixing Failed States, pp. 85-112


WEEK 4 – Statebuilding in the Wake of State Failure (Sept. 27)


**WEEK 5 – Statebuilding: Security and Law (Oct. 4)**


*Recommended:*


**WEEK 6 – Statebuilding: Institutions and Governance (Oct. 11)**


**FIRST ESSAY DUE**

**WEEK 7 – Statebuilding: Democracy & Governance; and, Contradictions & Critiques (Oct. 18)**


**WEEK 8 – Statebuilding: Alternative Perspectives (Oct. 25)**


Recommended:

WEEK 9 – Humanitarian Intervention (Nov. 1)


WEEK 10 – R2P and the Responsibility to Rebuild (Nov. 8)


Recommended:

**SECOND ESSAY DUE**

**WEEK 11 – Responsibility to Protect (continued); & Revisiting the ‘Liberal Peace’ (Nov. 15)**


**WEEK 12 – PRESENTATIONS (Nov. 22)**

**WEEK 13 – PRESENTATIONS; & CONCLUSION (Nov. 29)**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students are expected to read and understand the university’s policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T10.02 and T10.03). These policies are available through the following url:

[http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html](http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html)

Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following:

- Submitting all or a portion of the same work for credit in more than one course.
- Representing another person’s work as your own for course assignments.
- Failure to acknowledge sources of facts, information, analyses, interpretations, and arguments that you incorporate in your work, whether from a source that is written, spoken communication, or the internet and whether it is published and unpublished. Appropriate documentation of your sources is necessary when you quote, paraphrase or incorporate information and ideas generated by others. In particular, please be aware that “patchwriting” is unacceptable.
All students in SIS classes are expected to read the SFU Library lesson on “What is Plagiarism?” and take the interactive tutorial, “Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism”

SFU Library: What is plagiarism?  
http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/writing/plagiarism

Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism:  
http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial