

# INTS 365W/POLISCI 365W: State-Society Relations in Comparative Context

What is the state? How is it organized? How do different countries select leaders, where is power located, who rules, and who is excluded? Under what conditions do people obey the state, resist it, or transform it? Which societal configurations challenge state control? How do states gain the legitimacy to rule?

INTS/POLI 365, State - Society Relations in Comparative Context, provides students with a conceptual understanding of the composition of states in diverse societal contexts. The course begins with a discussion of regimes, leading to the first assignment, in which students assess the regime of a country of their choice. The second part of the course is concerned with defining the state and understanding its institutions. This will motivate the second assignment, in which students will design what they feel to be an ideal institutional configuration for their country. The third part of the course pushes back, looking at societies and how they undermine your designs. Your third paper will consider resistance from various societal forces. You will then assemble and revise your three papers to form a broader paper on state / society relations.

Students will develop a heightened understanding of democratic and non-democratic regimes, how electoral systems turn votes into seats, the tradeoffs in different systems, and how these systems interact with a myriad of societal forces that may resist the state (sometimes for good reason).

This course satisfies the [advanced writing skills course requirement](#).

**Units:** 3

**Prerequisites:**

WRIT 101

[WRIT 101](#)

**Program:** [Political Science](#) [Global and Thematic Issues](#)