Course Overview
When anthropologists study the interaction of 'local' groups ('indigenous' or 'grassroots' people) and 'the state' they often focus on the way in which local identities are elicited, misrecognized, constructed, or otherwise 'made'. These analyses are often not symmetrical, however, in the sense that they do not examine the way 'the state' is itself a macro-sociological entity whose taken-for-granted status must be achieved.

How do people come to believe that there is such an entity as 'the state'? How to do they come to believe that kings, policemen, and legislators speak and act in its name? What sort of models of selfhood must people possess in order to consider themselves capable of being governed? We will answer these questions using ethnographic, archaeological, and historical anthropological materials taken from a wide range of societies.

Requirements and Readings
Readings
This class is structured around the close reading of ethnographic monographs. That is to say, we will be 'reading whole books' of ethnography. The following books are available at the bookstore and will (most likely) be read in their entirety:
- Apologies to Thucydides, Marshall Sahlins
- The Political Landscape, Adam Smith
- Reassembling the Social, Bruno Latour
- The Power of Kings, Paul Monod
- Society Must Be Defended, Michel Foucault
- Declaring Independence, Jay Fliegelman
- Visible and Invisible Realms, Margaret Wiener
- The Calligraphic State, Brinkley Messick
- Ambiguities of Domination, Lisa Wheedon
If you can get these books cheaper online, more power to you.

Requirements
This class will be taught using the 'Melbourne Method' – students will be divided up into groups. The groups will take turns preparing discussion questions, responding to these questions, and discussing the responses to the questions respectively (I'll explain this in more detail as the class gets rolling). Students will be graded on class participation and the short presentations they write up for class. There are no term papers.

Week One
Introduction: Unscrewing big leviathans
Introduction to the class

Discuss precirculated essays:


Timothy Mitchell, “Society, Economy, and the State Effect” in Steinmetz

**Week Two**  
**Heroic history and levianthology: Fiji, Greece, Cuba**

Marshall Sahlins, “Apologies to Thucydides: Understanding History as Culture and Vice Versa”

**Week Three**  
**Archaeologies of the State**

Yoffee and Baines “Legitimacy, Order, and Wealth”
Yoffee, “Myths of the Archaic State” ch. 4
Yoffee and Baines “Egypt and Mesopotamia Compared”

*Group A present questions to Group B*

**Week Four**  
**When the king kills Leviathan**

Readings on divine kingship and divine monsters in the Middle East

Selections from:
“The Origins of Biblical Monotheism: Israel’s Polytheistic Background and the Ugaritic Texts” by Mark Z. Smith
“Creation and the Persistence of Evil” Jon Levinson
Selections from Hebrew Bible

*Group B answers questions, group C responds. Group C gives group A questions.*

**Week Five**  
**Archaeological Perspectives II: The political landscape**

Adam T. Smith, “The Political Landscape: Constellations of Authority in Early Complex Polities”

Includes bonus ‘get your mesoamerica on’ chapters!

*Group A answer’s questions. Group B responds and gives group C questions.*

**Week Six**  
**Non-archaeological assemblages**

Bruno Latour, “Reassembling The Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory”

*C answers questions, A responds and gives questions to B*

**Week Seven**  
**Divine kingship in ‘The West’**


*B answers questions, C responds and gives questions to A*

**Week Eight**  
**When the king is Leviathan**

Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan” (selections)

*A answers questions, B responds and gives questions to C*

**Week Nine**  
**Rethinking Governmentality**

Michel Foucault, “‘Society must be defended!’: Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976”
Week Ten  Modern selves, enlightened polities
    Jay Fliegelman, “Declaring Independence: Jefferson, Natural Language, and the Culture of Performance”

Week Eleven  Leviathan in Burma
    J.S. Furnivall, “The Fashioning of Leviathan: The Beginnings of British Rule in Burma”
    Edmund Leach, “In Formative Travail With Leviathan”

Week Twelve  Spring Break
    No class. The particularly enterprising may wish to read:

Week Thirteen  Colonialism I: The Dutch in Bali

Week Fourteen  Colonialism II: The Middle East, again
    Timothy Mitchell, “Colonising Egypt”

Week Fifteen  Textual Authorities
    Brinkley Messick, “The Calligraphic State: Textual Domination and History in a Muslim Society”

Week Sixteen  Postcolonial Domination in – wait for it – the middle east
    Wrap up of class
    C answers questions, A responds.