This course looks at recent “constructivist” work, taking a changing topic as its focus each year. This year the theme is “Constructing Early Modernity.” Unlike past years, when the topic occupied the second half of the course, this year we devote all ten weeks to the topic.

The standard story in the discipline is that major transformations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries created “modern states” and “modern international relations,” symbolically represented by the Treaty of Westphalia. This course suggests instead that there is very little “modern” about the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – or even the first half of the eighteenth century – if by modern states and modern international relations we mean something close to the nineteenth and twentieth century referents.

In the first part of the course we look at the century and a half before Westphalia as fundamentally about the rise of absolutist states and confessional politics, not modernity. In the second part, we step back and look at five macrohistorical narratives that place the “early modern” era in broader historical processes of change. Students have the option of taking either half of this course separately by registering for INTS 4908.

Administrivia: Students desiring the “old” “first part” of the course, for the purposes of comps preparation, may take it as INTS 4908 in the first five weeks of the SPRING quarter (or audit it without credit then). To satisfy the 4903 requirement for the IP field, you make take EITHER 1) 4903 this quarter or 2 a) either half of this course AND b) 4908 in the Spring. If you choose option 2, you may satisfy the bureaucratic requirements either by a) registering for 4903 this quarter or b) registering for 4908 for 3 credits both winter and spring.

Required Readings

Background Historical Reading
(Note: Amazon has used copies of this at reasonable prices.)

READ THIS (or some comparable general historical work on the period) OVER THE BREAK

Part One: The Westphalian Myth
1. Dynastic/Absolutist Monarchy
   Christian Reus-Smit, *The Moral Purpose of the State*, ch. 1, 5
   Bonney, ch. 6-10.

2. The Reformation and Sovereignty
   Bonney, ch. 1

3. Religion and Regime
   Guy Swanson, *Religion and Regime: A Sociological Account of the Reformation*
4. Composite States

5. Rethinking Westphalia
   Nexon, ch. 8-9.
   Other readings TBA.

Part Two: “Early Modern” Europe in Macro-Historical Context(s)

6. Macrohistory I:

7. Macrohistory II:

8. Macrohistory III:

9. Macrohistory IV:
   Benno Teschke, *The Myth of 1648*

10. Macrohistory V:
    Thomas Ertman, *Birth of the Leviathan*