

PLS 436/536
Presentation instructions

In the presentation, you will discuss the topic covered in a particular class through the lens of a country (or another polity) of your choice. Part II presentations will consider the relationship between state capacity and its correlate(s) considered in respective weeks in specific countries. Part III presentations will apply explanations of state-building processes addressed in different classes to such countries. And the Part IV presentation will detail the efforts to build state capacity in the country you have selected. You can only focus on a country that was not the subject of an earlier presentation in the course. You should consult me about the choice of your country case. Our discussions would benefit from expert knowledge on these countries that some of you could develop through work on the presentations.

To prepare the presentations you will need to develop a good understanding of the chosen country's history and politics; to do so you may use online sources such as Wikipedia, but the best presentations will draw on much more in-depth knowledge of the country, derived, for example, from reading a scholarly overview of its history.

You will prepare and deliver the presentation together with one or two other students. You will have ten minutes to deliver the presentation, which will be followed by a short Q&A session. You may, but do not have to, use slides, videos, and other multimedia content in the presentations.

The primary purposes of the presentation are to provide you with an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of a specific country—which you may otherwise know little about—share this knowledge with your peers, and thus enrich our discussions by providing an illustration of the importance and evolution of state capacity in that country. The presentation will also measure your understanding of the course material and your ability to collect information.

The directions above are necessarily general because of the diversity of topics and articles that different presentations will examine. I am happy to offer more specific advice on your particular presentation, topic, and country case in office hours.

Presentation rubric

	Failure	Minimally acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Understanding of the topic under consideration	The presentation provides no evidence of the presenters' understanding of the topic.	The presentation is suggestive of limited understanding of the topic, based on superficial engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a large number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation indicates some understanding of the topic, based on evident effort to engage with relevant course material. In some cases a small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates solid understanding of the topic, based on evident engagement with relevant course material. In some cases a very small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates excellent understanding of the topic, based on evident engagement with relevant course material and, in most cases, consultation of outside scholarly material.
Explanation of case selection	Case selection is not explained.	The explanation is not convincing.	The explanation is reasonable but not fully developed.	The explanation is compelling.	The explanation of the case's suitability is unusually sophisticated.
Familiarity with the case	The presentation provides no evidence of the presenters' knowledge of the country case.	The presentation is suggestive of limited knowledge of the country case. In some cases a large number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation indicates some knowledge of the country case. In some cases a small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates solid knowledge of the country case. In some cases a very small number of factual errors may be present.	The presentation demonstrates evident familiarity with the country case
Presentation structure and delivery	Weak or no organization, random expression of ideas, disjointed or incomprehensible delivery.	Difficult to follow and/or poorly delivered presentation.	The presentation follows a clear, if not necessarily well-thought-out, organization and the delivery is somewhat engaging.	The presentation is clearly structured and delivered in a manner that helps the audience to absorb the content.	The presentation is clearly structured and delivered in a manner that helps the audience to gain valuable new insights and/or consider the subject from different perspectives in addition to absorbing the content.