

ATA 594

THE POLITICS OF TAXATION

Spring 2009

Nadir Özbek

Monday 10:00-13:00

Office Hrs: Monday 14:00-16:00, Wednesday 14:00-16:00

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Course Description: The seminar introduces students to issues ranging from social justice, equality, social welfare, income distribution, wealth and poverty, wealth and taxation both in history and in contemporary world. We consider tax as a social instrument, and taxing as politics. Technologies of taxation, and ideologies informing perceptions of tax in historical societies in our present are topics that we will focus on during the semester. During the first part of the semester we are going to make common readings as the basis for weekly discussions. Each student is expected to carry out a small research project on issues that we will be discussing throughout the first part of the semester. During the second part students are going to present their projects to the classroom. Research topics may be on historical issues, as well as contemporary social problems.

Readings: The following is a list of books and articles which may give an idea to the common readings of the course.

- Daunton, M.J. "Payment and Participation: Welfare and State-Formation in Britain, 1900-1951." *Past and Present*, no. 150 (1996): 169-216.
- Sabine, B.E.V. *A History of Income Tax*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1996.
- Steinwedel, Charles. "Making Social Groups, One Person at a Time." In *Documenting Individual Identity*, edited by Jane Caplan and John Torpey, 67-82. Princeton, 2001.
- Whiting, R.C. "Taxation and the Working Class, 1915-24." *Historical Journal* 33, no. 4 (1990): 895-916.
- Witt, Peter-Christian, ed. *Wealth and Taxation in Central Europe: The History and Sociology of Public Finance* New York: Berg, 1987.
- Kwass, Michael. "A Kingdom of Taxpayers: State Formation, Privilege, and Political Culture in Eighteenth-Century France." *Journal of Modern History* 70 (1998): 295-339.
- Kotsonis, Yanni. "'No Place to Go': Taxation and State Transformation in Late-Imperial and Early-Soviet Russia." *Journal of Modern History* 76, no. 3 (2004): 531-77.
- Kotsonis, Yanni. "'Face-to-Face': The State, the Individual, and the Citizen in Russian Taxation." *Slavic Review* 63, no. 2 (2004): 221-46.
- Bowman, Linda. "Russia's First Income Taxes: The Effects of Modernized Taxes on Commerce and Industry, 1885-1914." *Slavic Review* 52, no. 2 (1993): 256-82.
- Collins, James B. *Fiscal Limits of Absolutism: Direct Taxation in Early Seventeenth-century France*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.
- Burg, David F. *A World History of Tax Rebellions: An Encyclopedia of Tax Rebels, Revolts, and Riots From Antiquity to the Present*. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Boratav, Korkut. *İktisat Politikaları ve Bölüşüm Sorunları*. İstanbul: Belge Yayınları, 1983.
- Boratav, Korkut, Çağlar Keyder, and Şevket Pamuk. *Kriz, Gelir Dağılımı ve Türkiye'nin Alternatif Sorunu*. İstanbul: Kaynak Yayınları, 1987.