

**Political Science 300**  
**The Politics of Revolutionary Change**  
**Fall 2008**

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Course Meeting Time: MWF 2:00-3:15, Graham 402

**Syllabus and Course Outline**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines twentieth-century revolutions. It will introduce students to the theoretical literature on revolution, and explore the causes of revolutions, their dynamics, and their consequences.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** This course is designed to help students to:

- 1) understand the various theoretical perspectives on revolution
- 2) define revolution as a distinctive form of social conflict and change
- 3) identify the various social, political, economic, and cultural causes of revolutions
- 4) analyze the different social structures, historical contexts, and levels of political mobilization that shaped the revolutionary processes
- 5) establish a typology of revolutionary outcomes
- 6) better understand and apply comparative political analysis

**TEACHING STRATEGY:** This course is designed as a seminar. Students who take it will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings and participate in class discussions of the readings on a regular basis. There will be two in class exams, a midterm (20%) and a final (25%). The exams will be comprised mainly of essay questions. Each student will write an 18-20 page research paper (30%) on a topic relevant to the course of his or her choice. You will be asked to participate in discussions actively and two report on your case readings. Class participation will count for 15% of your final grade.

All class sessions are based on group discussion. Student research projects will be discussed periodically in class during the course of the semester, and you will make an oral presentation of your research findings at the end of the semester.

**Required Readings:**

Goldston, Jack, A. *Revolutions; Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth, 2003.

Additional articles will be available through blackboard or distributed in class.

**Supplimentary Case Study Readings**

Along with the required readings listed in the course outline, each student is responsible for choosing one additional reading on a case study of their choosing (with prior approval of the instructor), and reporting to the class on them. In general these should be primary resources, autobiographies, biographies, etc.

## **Course Outline:**

### **I. Introduction**

Goldstone, Jack A., "The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions," in Goldston, Jack, A. *Revolutions; Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies*, pp. 1-20.

### **II. Classical Theories of Revolution**

Goldstone, Chapter 1.

Gurr, Ted, "The Revolution-Social Change Nexus: Some Old Theories and New Hypotheses," *Comparative Politics* Vol. 5, Number 3 (April 1973).

### **III. Causes of Revolution**

Goldstone, Chapters 2 and 3.

Huntington, Samuel t., *Political Order in Changing Societies*, Chapter 5: Revolutions and the Political Order, (the "Gap Hypothesis"), pp. 264-315; 334-344.

Davies, James C. "Towards a Theory of Revolution," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. XXVII, pp. 1-18.

Sewell, William H. Jr. "Ideologies and Social Revolutions; Reflections on the French Case," in Theda Skopol, *Social Revolutions in the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

*Exam 1: approximately Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.*

### **IV. Processes of Revolution**

#### **A) The Classical Cases**

Republican Revolutions, Goldstone, Chapter 5

#### **B) The Twentieth and Twenty First Centuries**

Marxist Revolutions, Goldstone, Chapter 6

Revolutions Against Dictatorships, Goldstone, Chapter 7

Revolutions Against Communism, Goldstone, Chapter 8

Guerilla and Ethnic Revolts, Goldstone, Chapter 9

### **V. Revolutionary Outcomes**

Goldstone, Chapter 4

*Final Paper due, Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Final Exam Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00*

**ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:** Each student is required to sign the honor statement on all major work submitted for this course. Refer to the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Because Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will fail the course; if you have to miss class, let me know beforehand (and/or provide adequate documentation afterward) and the absence will not be counted against you.

**DROP POLICY:** Refer to UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*

## Recommended Readings:

- Brinton, N Crane. *The Anatomy of Revolution*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1952.
- DeFronzo, James. *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1996.
- Dominguez, Jorge. *Insurrection or Loyalty: The Breakdown of the Spanish American Empire*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1980.
- Eisenstadt, S. N. *Revolution and the Transformation of Societies*. New York: Free Press, 1978.
- Goldstone, Jack A. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 1991.
- Goldstone, Jack A., Robert Gurr, and Farrokh Moshiri, eds. *Revolutions of the Late Twentieth Century*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1991.
- Greene, Thomas H. *Comparative Revolutionary Movements: Search for Theory and Justice*. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1990.
- Hart, John Mason. *Revolutionary Mexico: The Coming and Process of the Mexican Revolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- Johnson, Chalmers. *Revolutionary Change*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1983.
- Gurr, Ted Robert. *Why Men Rebel*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1970.
- Hibbs, Douglas A. Jr. *Mass Political Violence*. New York: Wiley, 1973.
- Scott, James. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976.
- Huntington, Samuel P. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968.
- Keddie, Nikki. *Debating Revolutions*. New York: NYU Press, 1994.
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. "Radicalism or Reformism: The Sources of Working Class Politics," *American Political Science Review*, 77, 1 (1983): 1-18.
- Migdal, Joell. *Peasants, Politics, and Revolution: Pressures Toward Social and Political Change in the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1974.
- Moore, Barrington, Jr. *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy; lord and peasant in the making of the modern world*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1966.
- Popkin, Samuel. *The Rational Peasant*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979
- Skocpol, Theda. *Social Revolutions in the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1994.
- Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988
- Thompson, John. *Revolutionary Russia, 1917*. New York: MacMillan, 1996.
- Tilly, Charles, "Revolutions and Collective Violence," in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science*, 3 (1975): 483-547.
- Trimberger, Kay. *Revolution from Above: Military Bureaucrats in Development in Japan, Turkey, Egypt, and Peru*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books, 1978.
- Wickham-Crowley, Tomothy. *Guerillas and Revolution in Latin America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992.
- Wolf, Eric. *Peasant Wars in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Harper and Row, 1969: pp. ix-xv and 277-302.