
POLS 230: REVOLUTIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD

Winter 2012: MWF 1:30 to 2:20 pm, D103

Instructor: Tim Jones (Please call me “Tim”)

Office: A200B

Office Hours: T/W/TH: 10:00 to 11:00 am, or by appointment.

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“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

~Frederick Douglass

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and what never will be”

~Thomas Jefferson

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will analyze the development of several revolutions in an effort to understand the causes and consequences of these major social upheavals. Some of the specific questions we will explore together include: *What brings revolutions about? Why do some succeed, and others fail? In what ways, and under what conditions, are revolutionary movements a positive means of social change. In what ways, and under what conditions, are they a negative means of social change?* We will address these questions by surveying a series of historically important revolutionary movements, including the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Cuban Revolution, the Vietnamese Revolution, the Algerian Revolution, the Nicaraguan Revolution, and the Iranian Revolution. The goal of our investigation is not only to learn more about these specific historical events, but also to deepen understanding of political and social change more generally.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an awareness of how past events influence contemporary problems, particularly in the realm of U.S. foreign policy.
2. To develop an informed understanding of the causes and consequences of historically significant revolutions.
3. To become more critical consumers of historical information.
4. To foster self-reflection about social justice and social change.

COURSE POLICIES

This is a college-level course, which means *you are responsible for your own learning*. I will do my best to teach the class in a fun and interesting way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to complete assignments in a timely and appropriate fashion, to come to class prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in classroom discussions and activities. Ultimately, *you are responsible for any material missed due to absence or lateness* so I encourage you to get acquainted with those around you, trade e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers, and make one or more study buddies. Finally, *if you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer*—raise your hand, talk to me after class, come to my office, etc. I cannot read minds, so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

This course involves the discussion of controversial political issues. Remember that reasonable people often disagree. Your challenge and responsibility is to maintain civil discourse. We will achieve this by being respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels. Please note that *all electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times*. This includes cell phones, blackberries, laptops, i-pods/mp3 players, computers, etc. If you need a laptop to take notes, I will need verification. *Students caught using electronic devices will be marked absent and asked to leave class that day*. This may seem like a harsh penalty, but such behavior is not only disrespectful and distracting to me, it is also disrespectful and distracting to the people around you. Please use your common sense to avoid any other conduct that might distract or offend the instructor or the others. Thank you!

MISSED EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All major due dates are indicated in the attached course schedule. Because I believe that one of the major lessons that students learn in college is the importance of meeting deadlines, I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me BEFORE the date it is due or you can document some sort of emergency. *All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0*. Likewise, *missed exams will receive a grade of 0.0*. Make-up exams will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document some sort of catastrophe (such as being medically unable to take the exam).

GRADE COMPLAINTS

If you wish to formally request a grade change, you must wait at least 24 hours, and then turn in a written statement explaining why you feel your assigned grade did not reflect your work based on the grading criteria used. We will then make an appointment to discuss your grade in my office. I will only discuss your grade in my office, and not in class. The statute of limitations for a grade complaint is one week.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

If you have a disability or a learning challenge and you feel you need accommodations in order to be successful in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132. The phone number is 425-564-

2498, and the website is: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. If the DRC provides you with documentation indicating that you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present that documentation to me at the beginning of the quarter so that we can begin working together as soon as possible to accommodate your needs in this class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College (http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp).

Such behavior will result in a grade of 0.0 for the assignment/exam in question. Please note that these are serious offences, which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College and go on your permanent record. If you have questions about academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct and/or come talk to me during my office hours.

ASSIGNED READINGS

The core text for the course is the fourth edition of James Defronzo's *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements* (2011). It is available in the campus bookstore, and it can also be purchased on Amazon. Supplemental materials will be made available on Blackboard Vista (<http://vista.bellevuecollege.edu>) or in-class. You are responsible for downloading (and printing) all supplemental readings. If you do not have a printer at home (or even if you do), you should take advantage of the computer lab in the N-building—students can print for free! ***Each reading is to be completed before the class session for which it is scheduled***, so that you can participate in any discussion or other classroom activity we do that day. Any material covered by an assigned reading may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed in the classroom. A tentative course schedule is attached to this syllabus. If and when adjustments are made to the course schedule, you will be informed in class and on our class website. Please note that the assigned reading is an important part of this class—if you don't do it you are going to find it hard to succeed.

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Please keep up with current political events—the Arab Spring, the Occupy Movement, etc. Our discussions in class will sometimes touch on current events and it is important that you keep up-to-date on the major political goings-on. Please find a few news sources that work for you (representing different mediums and viewpoints) and make a habit of reading, listening, and/or watching them throughout the quarter. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a particular news source for this class, please ask me sooner rather than later. I suggest that at least one of your sources be a national newspaper such as: the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), the *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), or the *Wall Street Journal* (www.wsj.com). I also encourage international sources such as the *BBC* (www.bbc.co.uk) and *Al Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net>). If you speak another language I encourage you to follow the news in that language and bring that perspective to class.

GRADED WORK	PTS	%
Office Visit	(10 pts)	2%
Syllabus Quiz	(10 pts)	2%
Film Review	(20 pts)	4%
Reading Prompts	(30 pts)	6%
Participation	(50 pts)	10%
Reflective Journal	(50 pts)	10%
Attendance	(60 pts)	12%
Final Paper	(70 pts)	23%
Midterm Exam	(100 pts)	20%
Final Exam	(100 pts)	20%
Total	(500 pts)	100%

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Points	Percentage	Grade	Points	Percentage
A	372-400	93-100%	C	292-311	73-77%
A-	360-371	90-92%	C-	280-291	70-72%
B+	352-359	88-89%	D+	272-279	68-69%
B	332-351	83-87%	D	240-271	60-67%
B-	320-331	80-82%	F	0-239	59% & Below
C+	312-319	78-79%			

OFFICE HOURS VISIT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE FEBRUARY 3RD)

To fulfill the requirements for this assignment, you need to visit me during my office hours once prior to the midterm. Research shows that making connections with faculty increases students' academic performance and satisfaction with their college experience. My weekly office hour calendar will be taped to my office door. Please come by any time and sign up. If you are unable to make my office hours because of a time conflict, in order to receive full credit you need to send me an email during the first two weeks of the quarter to arrange an alternative appointment time. The purpose of this office visit is twofold: (1) to break the ice so that you feel comfortable visiting my office and (2) for me to get to know you a bit better. See you soon!

SYLLABUS QUIZ (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE JANUARY 9TH)

For this assignment you need to read the syllabus and answer ten logistical questions about the class. The quiz is available on our course website. To access the quiz just click on the "Assessment" button and you should see it. *To get credit for this assignment, you need to take the quiz before class begins on Monday, January 9th.* The purpose of this quiz is to make sure you (a) read the syllabus, (b) are familiar with the course schedule and my expectations, and (c) can navigate your way around our course website. I would recommend printing the syllabus so that you can easily refer to it during the quiz.

FILM REVIEW (20 PTS ~ 4%) (DUE FEBRUARY 22ND)

For this assignment you will need to watch a documentary film related to a topic covered in the course and write a one-page, single-spaced summary and analysis of the film.

There are a lot of good documentaries about revolutions and revolutionary movements. I am happy to offer suggestions if you aren't sure what to watch, but you need to tell me what you are interested in first. Whatever you decide to watch, make sure you clear it with me before completing this assignment—if you do not clear your documentary with me first you will be docked 10 pts. Your write-up should be one-page, single-spaced, typed with Times New Roman, 12 pt font, and 1-inch margins. It should also include a clear and descriptive title as well as proper spelling, syntax and grammar. ***This assignment is due on Blackboard by 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2012.***

READING PROMPTS (30 pts ~ 6%) (DUE EVERY CLASS PERIOD)

To help you get the most out of the course materials, you will be provided with a prompt for nearly every assigned reading in this course. These prompts are available on our course website and they include a handful of reflection questions as well as a comprehensive list of key concepts. You are expected to engage with these prompts before, during, and after doing the reading. My primary purpose in creating these prompts is to help you focus on what is important in the reading, to help you get ready for our in-class discussions, and to help you prepare for assignments, quizzes, and exams. ***I will be collecting your prompts at the beginning of every class—each prompt is worth one point.*** If you don't give me a prompt with your name on it at the beginning of class you will not receive credit that day. You are encouraged to write answers to the reflection questions that I have provided on the prompts themselves as well as to define the key concepts that I have listed. To give you extra incentive to do so, I will return your prompts to you when you take the midterm and final exams—if you've written a lot on your prompts they are likely to help you with the exams; if you haven't they won't.

PARTICIPATION (50 pts ~ 10%)

This class would be extremely dull if I did all the talking so please do your part to participate. It is impossible for you to participate if you are not in class, but participation is about more than just attendance. You are expected to come to every class having done ALL the assigned reading, and you are expected to regularly contribute to our in-class discussions—even if you are shy. Please come to every class with a pen or pencil, some paper, a copy of the assigned reading, and a copy of that day's reading prompt. It is worth pointing out that ***the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each credit hour!***

***Success Tip:** Don't be shy. Try to participate every day. If you are confused, ask me questions in class, during my office hours, or via email.

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL (50 pts ~ 10%) (DUE MONDAYS BY 1:30 PM)

As a supplement to in-class discussion, I would like you to keep a reflective journal this quarter. The purpose of this journal is to stimulate your thinking about the material being covered in lecture and in the reading and to serve as a starting point for in-class discussions. You are responsible for writing one outside-of-class journal entry per week for a total of 10 entries. Each journal entry should be at least 300 words in length. Each week's journal prompts will be posted on our course website by 11:59 pm on Wednesday. You must complete your journal entry and submit it on Blackboard by 1:30

pm the following Monday. Each journal entry is worth five points. Please let me know if you have any questions.

***Success Tip:** Take the journal prompts seriously and keep up with the assigned entries. Make sure you follow the instructions regarding the number of words.

ATTENDANCE (60 PTS ~ 12%)

I intend to start class on time every day and I expect you to be there when I do. Occasionally, you may find it necessary to be late, in which case I would certainly prefer that you come rather than miss the entire class. We are scheduled to meet 30 times this quarter and attendance is worth 60 points. For each class that you come to on time you will receive two points. For each class that you come to late you will receive one point. You will not receive any points when you miss class unless I excuse your absence. Excused absences include documented doctor's visits, family emergencies, and sometimes school or work-related issues. If you miss class, you are expected to connect with one or more of your classmates to find out what you missed. I am happy to clarify what you miss during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

FINAL REFLECTION (70 pts ~ 23%) (DUE MARCH 9TH)

For your final paper you will need to write 4 to 6 pages analyzing a revolutionary movement, a revolutionary figure, a revolutionary ideology, or a revolutionary tactic that you are interested in exploring in greater detail than we can do together in class. Your final papers will be due on blackboard by 1:30 pm on Friday, March 9th.

***Success Tip:** Plan ahead and pick a paper topic that you are interested in. Do not wait until the last minute to write your paper. Come talk to me if you have any questions or need guidance, and be sure to proofread for spelling and grammatical errors well in advance of turning in your paper.

MIDTERM EXAM (100 pts ~ 20%) (IN CLASS ON FEBRUARY 6TH)

Your midterm will be held in class on Tuesday, February 6th. This exam will cover assigned readings, movies, lectures, guest presentations, and major current events discussed in class. The exam will consist of a mix of question types, including: true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay. A study-guide will be made available to you a week before the exam.

***Success Tip:** Keep up with the assigned material and do not leave your exam preparation until the night before the exam. Take advantage of the review sheet. Form a study group with your classmates. Come to my office hours if you have questions.

FINAL EXAM (100 pts ~ 20%) (IN-CLASS ON MARCH 16TH)

Your final exam will be held in class on Friday, March 16th. This exam will not be cumulative; rather, it will cover the assigned readings, movies, lectures, guest presentations, and major current events discussed in class since the midterm exam. Like the midterm, the final exam will consist of a mix of question types, including: true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay.

***Success Tip:** Keep up with the assigned material and do not leave your exam preparation until the night before the exam. Take advantage of the review sheet. Form a study group with your classmates. Come to my office hours if you have questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCING THE COURSE (42 pgs/3 mins)

Wednesday, January 4th—Introduction to the Course (19 pgs)

- Syllabus (11 pgs)
- TIME: “Person of the Year: The Protester” (8 pgs)

Friday, January 6th—The Use and Abuse of History (23 pgs/3 mins)

- Zinn: “The Use and Abuse of History” (pp. 48-66) (19 pgs)
- Stearns: “Why Study History?” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
- Guthrie: “Ludlow Massacre” (3 mins)

WEEK 2: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (78 pgs)

Monday, January 9th—Putting Revolutions in Context (29 pgs)

- Defronzo: “Preface” (pp. xiii-xiv) (1 pg)
- Defronzo: “Introduction” (pp. 1-5) (5 pgs)
- Defronzo: “Social Movements and Revolutions” (pp. 9-31) (23 pgs)

Wednesday, January 11th—The Promise of the American Revolution (18 pgs)

- Gilje: “American Revolution” (pp. 46-53) (8 pgs)
- Wood: “Introduction” (pp. 3-8) (6 pgs)
- Jefferson: “The Declaration of Independence” (63-66) (4 pgs)

Friday, January 13th—The Limits of the American Revolution (31 pgs)

- Zinn: “Tyranny Is Tyranny” (71-75) (5 pgs)
- Zinn: “A Kind of Revolution” (77-101) (26 pgs)

WEEK 3: U.S. REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS (43 PGS/56 MINS)

Monday, January 16th—Martin Luther King Day—No School! (5 pgs/56 mins)

- Solomon: “The Martin Luther King You Don’t See on TV” (2 pgs)
- West: “Dr. King Weeps from His Grave” (3 pgs)
- Smiley: *A Call to Conscience* (56 mins)

Wednesday, January 18th—The African American Freedom Struggle (24 pgs)

- Carson: “African American Freedom Struggle” (pp. 16-28) (13 pgs)
- Douglass: “The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro” (183-186) (4 pgs)
- Hughes: “Harlem” (1 pg)
- Malcolm X: “Message to the Grass Roots” (400-401) (2 pgs)
- MLK: “Where Do We Go From Here?” (417-420) (4 pgs)

Friday, January 20th—The Women’s Rights Movement (14 pgs)

- Beeman: “Women’s Movement of the United States” (pp. 942-950) (10 pgs)
- Stanton & Mott: “The Declaration of Sentiments” (1 pg)
- Zinn: “*The United States of America v. Susan B. Anthony*” (pp. 130-132) (3 pgs)

WEEK 4: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (14 PGS/89 MINS)

Monday, January 23rd—The French Revolution (89 mins)

- At-Home Film: *The French Revolution* (89 mins)

Wednesday, January 25th—The French Revolution Continued

- Guest Speaker: William Mitchell (University of Washington Instructor)
- Readings to be announced!

Friday, January 27th—Anarchism, Communism, and Socialism (14 pgs)

- Marx & Engels: “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp. 21-29) (9 pgs)
- Shannon: “Anarchism, Communism, and Socialism” (pp. 57-61) (5 pgs)
- Possible additional readings to be announced.

WEEK 5: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION (96 PGS)

Monday, January 30th—The Russian Revolution (41 pgs)

- Defronzo: “The Russian Revolutions and Eastern Europe” (pp. 39-76, 83-85) (41 pgs)
- Defronzo: “The Russian Revolution of 1917” (pp. 721-738) (18 pgs) (OPTIONAL)

Wednesday, February 1st—Allegory of the Russian Revolution: Part 1 (23 pgs)

- Orwell: *Animal Farm* (pp. 1-23) (23 pgs)

Friday, February 3rd—Allegory of the Russian Revolution: Part 2 (31 pgs)

- Orwell: *Animal Farm* (pp. 24-54) (31 pgs)

WEEK 6: THE CUBAN REVOLUTION (63 pgs)

Monday, February 6th—Midterm Exam

- In-Class Midterm Exam Today!

Wednesday, February 8th—The Cuban Revolution (40 pgs)

- Defronzo: “The Cuban Revolution” (pp. 203-242) (40 pgs)
- Defronzo: “The Cuban Revolution” (pp. 177-191) (15 pgs) (OPTIONAL)

Friday, February 10th—U.S.-Cuban Relations (23 pgs)

- Cuba Reader: “The Platt Amendment” (pp. 147-149) (3 pgs)
- Cuba Reader: “The U.S. Responds to the Revolution” (pp. 530-535) (6 pgs)
- Castro: “Resist the Counterrevolution” (pp. 536-539) (4 pgs)
- Cuba Reader: “Operation Mongoose” (pp. 540-543) (4 pgs)
- Cuba Reader: “The Assassination Plots” (pp. 552-556) (5 pgs)

WEEK 7: THE VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION (49 PGS/94 MINS)

Monday, February 13th—The Vietnamese Revolution (16 pgs)

- Defronzo: “Vietnamese Revolution (pp. 912-925) (14 pgs)
- Minh: Vietnamese Declaration of Independence” (2 pgs)
- Defronzo: “The Vietnamese Revolution” (pp. 149-196) (48 pgs) (OPTIONAL)

Wednesday, February 15th—The Vietnam War (35 pgs)

- Zinn: “The Impossible Victory: Vietnam” (pp. 469-501) (33 pgs)
- Ali: “Speaking Out Against the Vietnam War” (pp. 430-431) (2 pgs)

Friday, February 17th—The Pentagon Papers (94 mins)

- Please come to class having watched and prepared to discuss the film *The Most Dangerous Man in America* (2010) (94 mins)

WEEK 8: NATIONALISM AND REVOLUTION (21 PGS/121 MINS)

Monday, February 20th—No School!

- **President’s Day**

Wednesday, February 22nd—Nationalism and Revolution (11 pgs)

- Cavatorta: “Colonialism, Anti-Colonialism, and Neo-Colonialism” by Francesco (pp. 163-167) (5 pgs)
- Adleman: “Nationalism and Revolution” (589-594) (6 pgs)
- Additional readings to be announced!

Friday, February 24th—The Algerian Revolution (10 pgs/121 mins)

- Cavatorta: “Algerian Revolution” (pp. 36-42) (7 pgs)
- Kaufman: “What does the Pentagon see in the *Battle of Algiers*?” (1-3) (3 pgs)
- In addition to the above reading, please come to class having watched and prepared to discuss the film *The Battle of Algiers* (121 mins)

WEEK 9: THE U.S. IN LATIN AMERICA (85 PGS/86 MINS)

Monday, February 27th—The Nicaraguan Revolution (41 pgs)

- Defronzo: “The Nicaraguan Revolution” (pp. 249-285) (37 pgs)
- Zinn: “The Iran-Contra Scandal” (pp. 227-231) (4 pgs)

Wednesday, February 29th—U.S. Involvement in Guatemala and Chile (44 pgs)

- Kinzer: “Get Rid of This Stinker” (pp. 129-147) (19 pgs)
- Kinzer: “We’re Going to Smash Him” (pp. 170-194) (25 pgs)

Friday, March 2nd—Top Secret America (86 mins)

- Please come to class having watched and prepared to discuss the films *The Secret Government* (22 mins) and *Top Secret America* (60 mins)

WEEK 10: THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION (51 PGS/152 MINS)

Monday, March 5th—The Iranian Revolution (41 pgs)

- Defronzo: “The Iranian Revolution and Islamic Fundamentalism” (pp. 291-331) (41 pgs)
- Defronzo: “The Iranian Revolution” (pp. 412-427) (16 pgs) (OPTIONAL)

Wednesday, March 7th—The 1953 U.S. Coup in Iran (56 mins/10 pgs)

- Kinzer: “Iran: The 1953 American Coup” (56 mins)
- Armstrong: “Ghosts of Our Past” (pp. 1-5) (5 pgs)
- Johnson: “Blowback” (pp 1-5) (5 pgs)

Friday, March 9th—Growing Up in Revolutionary Iran (96 mins)

- Please come to class having watched and prepared to discuss the film *Persepolis* (96 mins)

WEEK 11: NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION (33 PGS)

Monday, March 12th— Ghandi and Nonviolent Direct Action (15 pgs)

- Joshi: “Indian Independence Movement” (pp. 383-391) (9 pgs)
- Ghandi: “My Faith in Nonviolence” (pp. 45-46) (2 pgs)
- Ghandi “Love” (1 pg)
- Ghandi: “The Doctrine of the Sword” (2 pgs)

Wednesday, March 14th—Martin Luther King and Nonviolent Direct Action (18 pgs)

- King: “Loving Your Enemies” (2 pgs)
- King: “Pilgrimage to Nonviolence” (pp. 9-14) (6 pgs)
- Sharp: “The Technique of Nonviolent Action” (pp. 1-3) (3 pgs)
- Sharp: “The Methods of Nonviolent Protest and Persuasion” (pp. 9-10) (2 pgs)
- Einstein: “On Pacifism” (pp. 11-15) (5 pgs)

Friday, March 16th—Final Exam

- In-Class Final Exam