



**HISTORY 265.1HE  
THE WORLD DIVIDED  
CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION: REVOLUTIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2016**



**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Kowalsky

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 105

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-5:00, or by appointment

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Materials:**

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Goldstone, Jack. *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014) ISBN 978-0199858500, \$9.68
- Satrapi, *Persepolis* (Pantheon, 2004) ISBN 978-0375714573, \$13.95
- Bulgakov, Mikhail, trans Marian Schwartz. *White Guard* (Yale University Press, 2009) ISBN 978-0300151459, \$22.00

- Lockpez, Inverna. *Cuba: My Revolution* (Vertigo, 2011) ISBN 978-1401222185, \$25.00
- Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs: A Novel of the Mexican Revolution* (Penguin Classics, 2008) ISBN 978-0143105275, \$10.45

Additional materials will be distributed to the class by the professor through eCollege.

**Course Description:**

Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and synchronism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. Topics such as the slave trade, European colonization, and globalization may receive special attention.

This semester we will be exploring the impact of revolution in the modern world from the French Revolution to the recent Arab Spring upheavals, with particular focus on the liberal revolutions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (France in 1789 and 1830/1848; Mexico 1910) and the communist revolutions of the twentieth century in Russia, China, and Cuba, although we will consider several additional revolutions in other parts of the world as well. Through focused readings, lectures, and class discussions we will examine why these revolutions occurred, what happened during the revolutions, and how they changed the societies that experienced them and the world around them. The knowledge gained from this study of modern revolutions will help prepare students to be more aware of and engaged with the interconnected world.

Note: This course satisfies a Humanities requirement for University Studies.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester:

1. Students will be able to explain and compare the causes of at least two different revolutions studied during the course; and
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Students' ability to meet the learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through the major paper due at the end of the semester (see description below under written assignments).

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

*Attendance*

Attendance is required. Excessive absences will impact your final grade significantly. A sign-in sheet will be provided for each class meeting and students should print their names clearly and legibly for their attendance that day to be recorded. Because university-sponsored events and illnesses or accidents occur, students will be allowed to miss 3 classes over the course of the semester without penalty. Absences in excess of 3 will be factored negatively into the participation grade (see below). Please do not email the professor regarding absences; no notes or excuses are required or accepted.

*Participation*

You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material.

This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and your engagement in our class discussions, and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

### *Written Assignments*

Students will complete two major assignments for this course. The first will be to produce a timeline for a revolution of their choosing that we have studied in the course. This project will involve some amount of external research. The second is a paper due that compares the causes and events of several revolutions. Details of the assignments are available on eCollege, and the due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below. All written assignments will be submitted to the professor through the appropriate dropbox on eCollege. No hard copies will be accepted. Comparative papers will need to be submitted to a student's Global Scholar portfolio.

### *Quizzes*

Quizzes may be given periodically throughout the semester, either in class or on eCollege. Quizzes given on eCollege are open book.

### *Exams*

Students will take 3 exams for this course as indicated in the Course Schedule. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lecture material, and class discussions. You must read the assignments and attend class in order to pass the exams. Exams will consist of both short answer and short essay questions. Students will need to bring blue books or stapled sheets of notebook paper with them for the exams. All exams are closed book. No notes of any sort may be used during exams.

### *Global Portfolios*

This course has been approved as a global course for the university's QEP. Major papers for this course must be submitted to a student's global portfolio. If you do not have a global portfolio, you must set one up through ManeSync. Students will need to send the professor a link to their portfolio's once their paper is uploaded. The professor will be happy to provide additional details and information on this aspect of the assignment.

### **Grading**

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Timeline project	20%
Comparative Essay	30%
Exams	30% (10% each)
Quizzes	5%
Participation/Attendance	10%
Global Portfolios	5%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

*Word Processing:*

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

*eCollege:*

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu). To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

*Turnitin:*

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox on eCollege. All student work must be turned in to the dropbox on eCollege and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Please let me know if you have any problems.

### COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

**Interaction with Instructor:**

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during

my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ***Classroom Behavior***

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

### ***Late Papers***

All written assignments are due by midnight the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments (excluding quizzes or online discussion postings) at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

### ***Academic Honesty***

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

### ***Writing Center***

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Additional readings beyond what are listed on this syllabus will be available on eCollege.

#### Week 1

January 20: Introduction

#### Part I: The Liberal Revolution

#### Week 2

January 25: Thinking about Revolution (1)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 1-40

January 27: The French Revolution (2)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 61-69; TBA on French Revolution

#### Week 3

February 1: The French Revolution (3)

February 3: The French Revolution (4)

#### Week 4

February 8: 1830/1848 (5)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 69-73; TBA on 1848

February 10: Exam 1

#### Part II: The Communist Revolutions

#### Week 5

February 15: Russian Revolution (6)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 74-78; Kowalsky, "Peace, Land, and Bread" (eCollege)

February 17: Russian Revolution (7)

Week 6

February 22: Russian Revolution (8)

Read: Bulgakov, *White Guard*

February 24: Russian Revolution (9)

Week 7

February 29: Russian Revolution (10)

March 2: Chinese Revolution (11)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 78-84; TBA

Week 8

March 7: Chinese Revolution (12)

March 9: Chinese Revolution (13)

March 14-18: Spring Break

Week 9

March 21: Cuban Revolution (14)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 85-89; TBA

March 24: Cuban Revolution (15)

Week 10

March 28: Film in Class

March 30: Film in Class

Week 11

April 4: Cuban Revolution (16)

Read: Lockpez, *Cuba: My Revolution*

April 6: Exam 2

Part III: Anti-Dictator and Post-Communist Revolutions

Week 12

April 11: Mexican Revolution (17)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 90-94; TBA

April 13: Mexican Revolution (18)

Comparative Paper Due

Week 13

April 18: Mexican Revolution (19)

Read: Azuela, *The Underdogs*

April 20: Iranian Revolution (20)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 99-103

Week 14

April 25: Iranian Revolution (21)

Read: Satrapi, *Persepolis*

April 27: Eastern European Revolutions (22)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 104-116; TBA

Week 15

May 2: Eastern European Revolutions/Arab Spring (23)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 117-130

Timeline Project Due

May 4: Arab Spring and the Fate of Revolution (24)

Read: Goldstone, pp. 131-133

**Final Exam: TBA**