

POS 6933
Spring 2025
Room: 216 Anderson
Time: W 8:30-11:00.

Michael Bernhard
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Office Hours: F 9:30-12:00
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Special Topics Seminar: Revolution

AUDIENCE: Open to all graduate students. No prerequisites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Revolution was a central concern of the discipline before the turn of the century. It was an important pathway to modernity for peasant societies, decolonization, and a common form of regime change. Events like the Russian, Chinese, and Iranian Revolutions changed the global balance of power in the twentieth century. In this course, we study the trajectory of revolution as an event that changed national trajectories and the global system of power. We will ponder the reasons behind its eclipse as a form of regime change since the Third Wave of Democratization and consider the role that revolutionary processes have in determining regime outcomes in the contemporary era.

WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE THIS COURSE? After a period of movement away from revolution to the consideration of other forms of regime change in political science in recent years, the last few years have seen the publication of important studies, which take account of revolution as a political force in the contemporary age. The course will familiarize students with influential works in the classic modern political science literature on revolution, as well as the wave of important new books. For students of comparative politics, the course will fulfill one of the required seminars with a substantive focus. For students in other fields minoring in comparative, the course fulfills one of your coursework requirements.

REQUIREMENTS: There is substantial reading each week in challenging academic monographs. Careful reading and preparation for active and cogent participation in class discussions is essential. Students will also prepare a research paper.

Research paper: Each student will produce an original research paper that touches upon one or more of the themes taken up in class. There are no strictures on the approach that you may take on the paper. It may be nomothetic or idiographic in approach. All methods are allowed, from large-n regression models to game theory to small-n cross-national to individual case studies. All papers must pay attention to good theorizing (whatever the tradition) and must also marshal compelling evidence in support of the paper's theoretical argument. Often a normal science framework (i.e., introduction, literature review, theory, hypotheses, methods, variables, results, conclusions) can facilitate this. It is by no means required that you follow this format; but papers need to be well-organized, cogently argued, and well-written no matter how the work is presented.

Obviously, the subject needs to be related to the themes raised in the course. If you are unsure about whether a topic pertains please see me as soon as possible. You will need to work on the paper in parallel to your coursework. By Week Eight, you need to be prepared to **present your research question to the class**. Additionally, you will be expected to have ideas about the theory, approach, and design you will use. If you are interested in one of the topics covered later in the course, you should look at this literature earlier in the semester on your own. You are encouraged to use my office hours to discuss research questions or to schedule appointments with me by email. The last two class meetings will be devoted to **research presentations**.

PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATION: Course requirements will be weighed in the following manner. Paper -- 60%, research project outline presentation -- 10%, research result presentation -- 10%, participation -- 20%.

<u>Grading Scale</u>	(Grade Point Equivalent)
A = 93 or above	4.00
A- = 90-92	3.67
B+ = 87-89	3.33
B = 83-86	3.00
B- = 80-82	2.67
C+ = 77-79	2.33
C = 73-76	2.00
C- = 70-72	1.67
D+ = 67-69	1.33
D = 63-66	1.00
D- = 60-62	0.67
E = 59 or below	0.00

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodation should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (including policy on AI): Academic integrity entails the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights, and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. To these ends, students admitted to UF have agreed to abide by its [code of conduct](#). It is worthwhile to reread this pledge periodically.

AI can be a useful tool in research – looking for literature, and even summarizing it so you can determine its use to you. It can help you locate and master software that will help you produce and analyze data. It is not a substitute for your thinking or writing. You are here to learn to write, make an argument, think critically, and use evidence to further advance your intelligence and human potential. Reliance on such programs to formulate your argument or write it is a form of cheating

yourself from realizing your full potential. **Please note that under the Honor Code: “Commissioning or seeking to commission another person or Entity, with or without compensation, to produce or complete academic work or to impersonate a student in any academic activity.” This regulation precludes the use of artificial intelligence software (e.g. Chat GPT or similar programs) to write your assignments.**

PLAGIARISM: All students should observe the University of Florida’s standards of academic honesty. In the event that a student is found cheating or plagiarizing, he/she will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs and the Department Chair and Graduate Coordinator for possible dismissal from the program. Acts of Plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or another assignment that was written by someone else (i.e., by another student, by a research service, AI, or downloaded off the Internet).
- Copying, verbatim, a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style and using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing (i.e., restating in your own words) text written by someone else without citing that author.
- Using a unique idea or concept, which you discovered in a specific reading, without citing that work.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Vagaries of life and scheduling sometimes make the handing in of assignments on time difficult. If students approach the instructor ahead of time and provide a good reason, accommodation may be possible. Such requests should be made prior to the deadline for the assignment. Retroactive accommodation will only be granted in the rarest and direst of cases.

CLASS BEHAVIOR: Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class. Computers and tablets may be open but can only be used for note-taking and reference work on the internet. Engagement with people outside the class via social media is not permitted. During discussion, students are expected to comport themselves respectfully in conversation with the instructor and other students. It is our joint responsibility to maintain an atmosphere where different viewpoints are respected, and all participants feel they can express themselves.

STUDENT WELLNESS: Some students experience personal and academic challenges, which pose difficulties for their work and life satisfaction. No one needs to cope with these in isolation. UF has extensive services to protect student wellness and assist in academic challenges. Among the many resources are:

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal well-being, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

READINGS: We will read ten books. All are available for purchase at the bookstore. Three are available online at the library website:

- Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*
- Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*
- Weyland, *Revolution and Reaction*

The others have been requested on reserve at Library West. <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/ares/ares.dll>

- Goodwin, *No Other Way Out*
- Foran, *Taking Power**
- Walder, *Agents of Disorder*
- Beissinger, *The Revolutionary City**
- Wood, *Forging Democracy from Below*
- Nugent, *After Repression**
- Levitsky and Way, *Revolution and Dictatorship**

*These books were not in UF's library system. They have been requested through the reserve system. They may be made available online or may only be added as hardcover.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1 (January 15, 2025): Introduction

Session 2 (January 22, 2025): Great Social Revolution

Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979. [Available Online].

Session 3 (January 29, 2025): Early Modern Revolution

Goldstone, Jack A. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991 [Available Online].

Session 4 (February 5, 2025): Postcolonial Revolution in the Global South

Foran, John. *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005 [ARES].

Session 5 (February 12, 2025): Revolution in the Postwar Period

Goodwin, Jeff. *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001 [ARES].

Session 6 (February 19, 2025): Reaction

Weyland, Kurt. *Revolution and Reaction: The Diffusion of Authoritarianism in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 [Available Online].

Session 7 (February 26, 2025): Deinstitutionalization

Walder, Andrew G. *Agents of Disorder: Inside China's Cultural Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019 [ARES].

Session 8 (March 5, 2025): Research I

Presentation of paper topics and design ideas in class.

Session 9 (March 12, 2025): Eclipse of the Countryside

Beissinger, Mark R. *The Revolutionary City: Urbanization and the Global Transformation of Rebellion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022 [ARES].

Spring Break

Session 10 (March 26, 2025): Revolution and Democratic Transition

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Session 11 (April 2, 2025): Neoauthoritarianism

Nugent, Elizabeth R. *After Repression: How Polarization Derails Democratic Transition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020 [ARES].

Session 12 (April 9, 2025): Durable Dictatorship

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. *Revolution and Dictatorship: The Violent Origins of Durable Authoritarianism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022 [ARES].

Session 13 (April 16, 2023): Research II

Research Reports

Session 14 (April 23, 2025): Research III

Research Reports

Final Papers Due: April 30, 2025