GOVT 731-002
Revolutions
Spring 2020

T 7:20-10:00 pm
West 1008

Instructor: Mark N. Katz
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Schar School of Policy and Government

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Office hours: M 2:15-4:15 pm, T 5:00-7:00 pm

READINGS:
Required Books:
Seyed Ali Alavi, Iran and Palestine: Past, Present, Future (Routledge, 2019);
Zoltan Barany, How Armies Respond to Revolutions and Why (Princeton University Press, 2016);
Jack A. Goldstone, Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2014);

Recommended Books:
Asef Bayat, Revolution without Revolutionaries: Making Sense of the Arab Spring (Stanford University Press, 2017);
John Foran, Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions (Cambridge University Press, 2005);
Jack A. Goldstone, Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World—25th anniversary edition (Routledge, 2016);
Jeff Goodwin, No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991 (Cambridge University Press, 2001);
Lester D. Langley, The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850 (Yale University Press, 1996);
Michael E. Latham, The Right Kind of Revolution: Modernization, Development, and U.S. Foreign Policy from the Cold War to the Present (Cornell University Press, 2011);
Lincoln A. Mitchell, The Color Revolutions (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012);
Other readings available on Blackboard:

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Students are required to arrive on time to and attend all class sessions.**

**Students are expected to contribute actively to seminar discussions.**

**All students** must write a write a short critical review (1500 words) on either  
1) Alavi, *Iran and Palestine*;  
2) Barany, *How Armies Respond to Revolution and Why*;  
3) Vogel et al., “The Roles of Women in Contemporary Political and Revolutionary Conflict;” or  
4) The group of articles contained in any of the five Parts of Katz, *Revolution: International Dimensions*.

**All students** must write three (3) short critical reviews (1500 words) on any of the books listed in the “Recommended” list above. Ph.D. students should write at least one of these on Foran, *Taking Power*; Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*; or Goodwin, *No Other Way Out*.

**Ph.D. students** must write and present in class a research paper (5000 words plus notes). April 28 (the last regular class session) is when their presentations must be made by, but a presentation may be scheduled for an earlier class session.

**All non-Ph.D.** students must write a paper (2500 words) analyzing either:  
1) The prospects for revolution in any country of their choice;  
2) Current American foreign policy options toward any revolutionary situation or revolutionary regime;  
3) The gender, ethnic, and/or cultural dynamics of any recent revolution; or  
4) The international relations of any modern revolution.

Non-Ph.D. students may, but are not required, to present their papers in class (if interested, please contact the professor about scheduling).

The four short critical reviews can be written in any order that the student chooses (i.e., either before or after the specific reading/s has/have been discussed in class. **All papers must be submitted via Blackboard by 7:00 pm as per the following schedule:**  
1\textsuperscript{st} critical review due February 25;  
2\textsuperscript{nd} critical review due March 17;
3rd critical review due March 31;
4th critical review due April 14;
Research paper or analysis paper due May 5.
Early submission of any and all papers is not just permitted, but encouraged!

GRADING:

**Ph.D. Students:** 4 short papers—50% (12.5% each); research paper—30%; class participation (including research paper presentation)—20%

**Non-Ph.D. Students:** 4 short papers—60% (15% each); analysis paper—20%; class participation (which may include analysis paper presentation)—20%

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

**Jan. 21—Introduction**

**Jan. 28—History of Revolution**

Jack A. Goldstone, *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction*

**Feb. 4—TBA**

**Feb. 11—Theories of Revolution: Marx, Brinton, Moore, Skocpol, Goldstone**

Jack A. Goldstone, “Toward a Fourth Generation of Revolutionary Theory,” *Annual Review of Political Science, 2001* (on Blackboard);
Recommended: Jack A. Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*

**Feb. 18—Theories of Revolution: Goodwin, Foran**

Jeff Goodwin, *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991*;
John Foran, *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions*

**Feb. 25—The International Relations of Revolution**

Mark N. Katz, ed., *Revolution: International Dimensions*;
Seyed Ali Alavi, *Iran and Palestine: Past, Present, Future*

**Mar. 3—The Military and Revolution**

Zoltan Barany, *How Armies Respond to Revolutions and Why*

**Mar. 10—NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

**Mar. 17—Gender, Ethnicity, Culture, and Revolution**
Recommended: Lester D. Langley, *The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850*;
Eric Selbin, *Revolution, Rebellion, Resistance: The Power of Story*

**Mar. 24**—Modern Revolution: The Former Soviet Space
Recommended: Lincoln A. Mitchell, *The Color Revolutions*

**Mar. 31**—TBA

**Apr. 7**—Modern Revolution: The Middle East
Recommended: Asef Bayat, *Revolution without Revolutionaries*

**Apr. 14**—America and Revolution
Recommended: Michael E. Latham, *The Right Kind of Revolution: Modernization, Development, and U.S. Foreign Policy from the Cold War to the Present*

**Apr. 21**—The Future of Revolution

**Apr. 28**—Student Presentations

**May 5**—Make-Up Session

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible as well as the GMU Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See [http://honorcode.gmu.edu/](http://honorcode.gmu.edu/) for more detailed information.

**Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.

**Last Day to Add:** January 28, 2020

**Last Day to Drop:** February 24, 2020