

Location/Time

TBD

Instructor

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Email

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Office Location

TBD

Office Hours

TBD

Course Overview

In politics, nothing strikes greater fear or ignites more excitement than the prospect of revolution. The question of what makes for a successful revolution has therefore been one of widespread significance and concern to political leaders and theorists from ancient times to the present. But the frequency and scale of revolutions seem to have dramatically increased in the modern era; cataclysmic events such as the Protestant Reformation, English Civil War, and the French, American, and Russian Revolutions have all occurred within the last 500 years. Is the modern world 'ripe' for revolution? Were there any revolutions in the pre-modern world at all? What *is* a revolution, and how do we distinguish it from other incidents of public resistance, rebellion, reform, or civil war?

We will consider these questions while studying the thought of modern revolutionaries themselves as well as analyses of their movements by other theorists. By contrasting the concerns, goals, and outcomes of these phenomena with similar agitations described in the *pre-modern* world, we will attempt to capture and define the heart of 'revolution'. And ultimately with the help of theorist Hannah Arendt, we will weigh the importance of revolutionary politics for our own world and the future.

Required Texts (roughly 40-60 pages per session)

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Ancien Regime and the French Revolution*
(translated and edited by Henry Gerald Bevan)

**All other required texts are on Chalk **

Written Assignments

- Two papers out of a choice of three, between 1700-2000 words: the first on the pre-moderns or the Reformation (due by midnight, Friday of Week Three), the second on the English and American Revolutions (due by midnight, Friday of Week Five), and the third, on the French and Russian Revolutions (due by midnight, Friday of Week Eight)
- Summary/analysis of one reading, 2-3 pages in length. Due in class on the discussion date for that reading.

Grade Distribution

5% - Summary and analysis of one day's texts

60% - Two papers, each worth 30%

35% - Final Exam

Course Schedule

Week One, Monday:	Introduction, no reading
The Pre-moderns on Resistance and Reform	
Week One, Wednesday:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Bk. 8 (excerpt) Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Bk. 5.9-10 Polybius, <i>Histories</i> , Bk. 6, Ch. I-II
Week Two, Monday	Salisbury, <i>Policraticus</i> , Bk. 6-8 (excerpts) Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , <i>On Kingship</i> (excerpts)
Week Two, Wednesday	Machiavelli, <i>Prince</i> , Ch. VI; <i>Discourse on Livy</i> , Bk. 1, Ch. 1-9, 11, 16-17. 25-26, 39-40, 53; Bk. 3, Ch. 1
Religious Reformation and Revolution (16th Century)	
Week Three, Monday	Papal bull: <i>Unam sanctam</i> Marsilius of Padua, <i>Defensor Pacis</i> (excerpts) Luther, <i>On the Freedom of a Christian</i>
Week Three, Wednesday:	<i>The Twelve Articles of the Peasants</i> Luther, <i>A Reply to the Twelve Articles (Admonition)</i> , <i>Against the Murdering Hordes of Peasants</i>
English Reformation and Civil War (16th-17th Centuries)	
Week Four, Monday:	Knox and Mary Queen of Scots (1561) Hobbes, <i>Behemoth</i> , Dialogue 1 (excerpt) Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Ch. 4, 6, 18-19
Week Four, Wednesday:	<i>English Declaration of April 30th, 1646</i> <i>Act of Commonwealth</i> <i>Declaration of Charles II</i> Burke, <i>Thoughts on the Present Discontents</i> (excerpt)

American Revolution (18th Century)	
Week Five, Monday:	Paine, “Present State of American Affairs” (<i>Common Sense</i>) Henry, <i>Speech at the Virginia Convention</i> (1775) <i>Declaration of Independence</i>
Week Five, Wednesday:	<i>The Federalist 1, 9-10, 14, 37, 51, 84</i>
French Revolution (18th Century)	
Week Six, Monday:	Tocqueville, <i>Ancien Regime and the French Revolution</i> , Bk. 1 (entire), Bk. 2, Ch. 3,11
Week Six, Wednesday:	Tocqueville, <i>Ancien Regime</i> , Bk. 3, Ch. 1-3, 6-8
Week Seven, Monday:	Robespierre, “Principles of Revolutionary Government”; “Report on the Principles of Political Morality”
Economic Revolution in Russia (19th-20th Centuries)	
Week Seven, Wednesday:	Engels, <i>The Peasant War in Germany</i> , Ch.1-2
Week Eight, Monday:	Marx, <i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Week Eight, Wednesday:	Solzhenitsyn, <i>Letter to the Soviet Leaders</i>
Final Conversation	
Week Nine, Monday:	Arendt, <i>On Revolution</i> , Ch. 1 (“The Meaning of Revolution”)
Week Nine, Wednesday:	Arendt, <i>On Revolution</i> , Ch. 6, Part IV (“The Revolutionary Tradition and Its Lost Treasure”)
Week Ten, Monday:	Condorcet, “On Revolution. On the meaning of the word ‘revolutionary’” Armitage, “Every great revolution is a civil war”