Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky  
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11-12 and 2-4, or by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5627  
University Email Address: Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-8:10pm

Course Description:
This course provides a focused and thorough analysis of a topic in European History through reading and discussing the relevant historiography, and through guided student research involving primary sources. Topic will vary from semester to semester.

This course is intended to expose graduate students to the history of revolution in Modern Europe. Over the course of the semester, we will try to identify the elements of a revolution and the specific historical, social, and political contexts that create revolutions. While we will not be able to cover every revolution, we will devote significant time to the study of the French and Russian Revolutions, and touch on relevant issues in some other revolutionary contexts. By the end of the semester, students should become well versed in theories of revolution, the origins and causes of revolution, and the impact of revolution in a comparative context. Students will be able to assess the various historiographical interpretations of the French and Russian revolutions and the significance of these events. Students will produce an original primary-source based research paper on a topic of their choice related to our course subject.

Course Materials:
The following required books are available at the bookstore:


Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor, obtained through the library, or made available to students through eCollege.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary over the course of the semester.
Student Learning Outcomes:
This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to understand different historians’ interpretations of events, as well as produce an original research paper. By the end of the semester, students should be able to assess the causes of the French and Russian revolutions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation
For all discussions, students are expected to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material to class. I expect all students to participate actively 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. Students will also be expected to make regular oral presentations of their readings and research in class.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and your oral presentations, 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
This semester’s major written work will be a primary source-based research paper of 15-20 pages. Students will also complete short two book reviews/assessments over the course of the semester as well as a short 4-6 page comparative essay. Details of the written assignments are available on the eCollege site. All written assignments will be submitted through the eCollege dropbox. All written work should conform to the Turabian/Chicago style guidelines, and include footnotes and bibliographies, where appropriate.

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

- **Research Paper** 40%
- **Book Reviews** 20%
- **Comparative essay** 15%
- **Participation** 25%

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. 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:
All written work must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Submissions to Turnitin are made through the dropbox on eCollege. All written work for this course will be turned in through the drop box in eCollege. 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.

Librarian:
Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Emily Witsell. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Emily Witsell, Reference Librarian
Gee Library 218
Emily_Witsell@tamu-commerce.edu
903-886-5719
Office Hours: Wednesday, 8-12; Thursday, 1-5

**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 leaning 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 as indicated in the Course Schedule below or on eCollege. 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 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/](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@tamu-commerce.edu  
Student Disability Resources & Services

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**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

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.

Week 1: August 29  
Topic: Introduction

Week 2: September 5  
Topic: What is a Revolution?  
Readings on eCollege

Week 3: September 12  
Topic: French Revolution  
Readings: Neeley  
Topic proposals due

Week 4: September 19  
Topic: French Revolution  
Readings: Individual selections: monographs  
Readings on eCollege: Hunt  
Book review 1 due on September 21

Week 5: September 26  
No Class

Week 6: October 3  
Topic: French Revolution  
Readings: Individual selections: document collections  
Readings on eCollege: 1789/1989

Week 7: October 10  
Topic: Russian Revolution  
Readings: Wade

Week 8: October 17  
Topic: Russian Revolution  
Readings: Individual selections: monographs  
Readings on eCollege: Pipes and Suny  
Book review 2 due on October 26

Week 9: October 24  
Topic: Russian Revolution  
Readings: Individual selections: documents  
Readings on eCollege: Ragsdale

Week 10: October 31
No Class
Week 11: November 7
    Topic: Comparing Revolutions: Terror
    Readings: Mayer
Week 12: November 14
    Topic: Comparing Revolutions: China
    Readings: Smith
    Comparative Essay due November 18
Week 13: November 21
    No Class
Week 14: November 28
    Class Presentations
Week 15: December 5
    Topic: Conclusions: Assessing Revolution
    Readings on eCollege

Final Paper due December 10