



**HISTORY 265.01E
THE WORLD DIVIDED
CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION: REVOLUTIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2013**



Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2 and 3:30-5:00, or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Materials:

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Satrapi, *Persepolis* (Pantheon, 2004) ISBN 978-0375714573, \$13.95
- Chukovskaia, *Sofia Petrovna* (Northwestern University Press, 1994) ISBN 978-0810111509, \$18.00
- Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2001), ISBN 978-0192853967, \$11.95

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.

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, students should be able to: explain and compare two factors (the causes and the terror) in the French, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions.

Students' ability to meet the learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through exams, essays, and/or quizzes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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. We will generally not meet in class on Fridays, but instead we will engage in online discussions or assessments. These can be completed at your own pace over the course of the day (or several days), but will have deadlines. Failure to participate in the online portion of the class will negatively affect your grade.

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. In addition, you will be required to participate periodically in online discussions on eCollege, as indicated in the Course Outline below. Guidelines for that participation can be found on the eCollege site. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and your engagement in our class discussions, both in the classroom and on eCollege, 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' major assignment for the course will be to produce and present a timeline for a revolution of their choosing. This project will involve some amount of external research. Students will also complete a movie project in which they compare a film to actual events. There will be several choices of films to evaluate. Details of the assignments are available on the eCollege site 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.

Quizzes

Quizzes will 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. The first two exams will be administered on eCollege. The final exam will be in class. Students will need to bring blue books or stapled sheets of notebook paper with them for the final exam. All exams are closed book. No notes of any sort may be used during exams.

Grading

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

Timeline project	20%
Movie project	5%
Exams	45% (15% each)
Quizzes	12% (4@3% each)
Participation/Attendance	18% (8@1% each, 10% classroom attend/participation)

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@tamuc.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/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
Ge e Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

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.

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

Week 1

January 14: Introduction
January 16: Thinking about Revolution (1)
January 18: Discussion

Part I: The Liberal Revolution

Week 2

January 21: no class, MLK Jr Day
January 23: The French Revolution (2)
 Read: Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, all
January 25: Discussion

Week 3

January 28: The French Revolution (3)
January 30: The French Revolution (4)
February 1: Quiz

Week 4

February 4: French Revolution (5)
February 6: 1830/1848 (6)
February 8: Discussion

Week 5

February 11: Meiji Japan (7)
February 13: Mexican Revolution (8)
 Read: eCollege Reading TBA
February 15: Quiz

Week 6

February 18: Mexican Revolution (9)
February 20: Mexican Revolution (10)
February 22: Exam

Part II: The Communist Revolutions

Week 7

February 25: Russian Revolution (11)
February 27: Russian Revolution (12)
 Read: Kowalsky, "Peace, Land, and Bread" (eCollege)
March 1: Discussion

Week 8

March 4: Russian Revolution (13)

March 6: Russian Revolution (14)

March 8: Quiz

March 11-15: Spring Break

Week 9

March 18: Russian Revolution (15)

Read: Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*

March 20: Russian Revolution (16)

March 22: Discussion

Week 10

March 25: Chinese Revolution (17)

Read: eCollege Reading TBA

March 27: Chinese Revolution (18)

March 29: Discussion

Week 11

April 1: Chinese Revolution (19)

April 3: Chinese Revolution (20)

April 5: Exam

Week 12

April 8: Cuban Revolution (21)

Read: Chomsky, "Cuba Through 1959" (eCollege)

April 10: Cuban Revolution (22)

April 12: Discussion

Timeline Project Due

Week 13

April 15: Cuban Revolution (23)

April 17: Cuban Revolution (24)

April 19: Quiz

Part III: Post-Communist Revolutions

Week 14

April 22: Iranian Revolution (25)

Read: Satrapi, *Persepolis*

April 24: Iranian Revolution (26)

April 26: Discussion

Movie Project Due

Week 15

April 29: Eastern European Revolutions of 1989 (27)

May 1: Arab Spring (28)

May 3: Conclusion/Discussion

Final Exam: TBA