# Course Syllabus

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# CPO 3057 - Contemporary Revolution and Political Violence

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**TA**: T. Augustine (Gus) Larmin By appointment.

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## Course Description

Political violence and revolution are common-place political phenomena around the world. Insurgencies, or campaigns that seek to either capture a part of a country's territory or to overthrow the government through violent means, are present in over one-third of the world's countries. More than half of the world's states have experienced a civil conflict in the past twenty years. Terrorist attacks occur either sporadically or systematically in both Western countries and the developing world. The Arab Spring and the Color Revolutions placed protest revolutions to the forefront in the 2000s and early 2010s leading to the civil conflict in their own right.

Simply put, political violence -- the use of violence to advance a political goal -- and revolution -- a sudden and fundamental change in the institutions of a government -- have been staples of national and international affairs as long as nations have existed. Civil conflicts often have a devastating effect on the population of the state that experiences it and the state around it. Civilians are subject to food insecurity, abuse and are often forced to flee their homes or their countries. The death toll from recent civil conflicts has varied from tens of thousands to millions of people. Terrorism, or low-level forms of symbolic targeted political violence, continues to pose a threat to the Western world. While far less deadly, terrorist attacks threaten the psyche of societies and can sow the seeds of political and social unrest that brings economies to a halt and renders governments ineffective. Revolutions, while often inspiring at

their outset, often serve to destabilize the political system of the countries experiencing regime change and create long-lasting political strife and even additional revolutions.

The broad goal of this course is to explain why both political violence and revolutions occur. The course will accomplish this through a broad survey of research on political violence and revolutions, with a special focus on connecting this research to tangible contemporary cases of revolution and political violence. A secondary, but as and possibly more important goal, is to use the topic of the course to impart marketable skills that students can use in future academic and professional endeavors. As such, most of the assignments for this class, especially the final paper, are designed to teach/re-enforce broadly marketable skills. These skills include consuming academic research, discussing topics relating to both the content and quality of academic writing with your peers, producing your own work that shows your understanding of academic research.

As a student, you are expected to watch the lectures, tutorials, and documentaries, to do the assigned ("required") readings before each short exam and submit discussion papers in a timely manner. As seen in the next section both of these expectations will factor in calculating your final grade.

# Assignments

## Discussion Papers

Students are required to write four discussion papers based on documentary films assigned in weeks 2-5 of the course. Students will be provided with links to the films and specific questions to answer. Questions will need to be supported with cited lecture and reading content. Discussion papers should be no less than 750 words and no more than 1000 words. Each paper is worth 10% of a student's total grade.

## Short Exams

Short exams are due on Friday at 11:59p of each week. They will encompass content from each week's readings, tutorials (when applicable) and lectures. Each will consist of both short-answer and multiple-choice questions. Students will have one hour to complete each short exam and may use any course materials to aid them while taking the exam. The exams are each worth 5% of a student's total grade.

## Final Paper

Students are required to write a final paper that tests a theory advanced by a reading in the course through gathering information on a particular case of terrorism, civil conflict, riot or revolution. Students will be asked to gather evidence from their country of choice to test the claims of an existing theory either from class or from outside of the course.

Papers should be at least 8 pages (before citations), 12-point Times New Roman font and use in-text citations. Students are required to consult with me through either e-mail or in office hours before

proceeding with their topic. Please see rubric for detailed requirements. The final paper is due on June 27th 11:59pm.

**Topic Approval.** Topics for the writing assignment MUST be submitted for approval by June 8 at 11:59 PM for full credit to my e-mail: konstantin.ash@ucf.edu. Students should include their chosen reading, the research question of that reading and the country where that reading's claims are to be tested. You lose one point from your assignment grade for every day that the topic is late. If revisions are needed, students may be required to consult with me over Skype to develop their topic.

### Grade Distribution

| Assignment | Percentage of Grade |
|---|---|
| Discussion Papers (4x) | 40% |
| Short Exams (6x) | 30% |
| Final Paper | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

# Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

As this is an online course, extensions will only be granted for documented involvement in university-approved activities or documented mental or physical incapacitation. Please do not invent excuses as a way of getting an extension. Evidence of fake excuses will be considered academic dishonesty and will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for investigation.

# Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Disability Services (http://www.sds.sdes.ucf.edu/)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

# Copyright

This course may contain copyright-protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

# Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course, you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

## Course Schedule and Readings

Each week's courses will follow the same structure. Lectures and exams will be made available on Monday until Friday at 11:59p. Discussion threads (weeks 2-5 only) will be visible starting Monday at noon. Discussion posts will be due Sunday at 11:59p, with responses to be made by the following day at 11:59p.

**All readings will be made available on WebCourses under the "Files" tab. Below is a schedule of readings and major course events**.

Please consult the Reading Focus Questions before starting each reading.

### WEEK 1 (MAY 17-24) - INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Required Readings:

- Stathis N. Kalyvas, ```New' and `Old' Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?" World Politics 54, 1 (October 2001): 99-118.
- Gerwehr, Scott and Kirk Hubbard. 2007. "What is Terrorism? Key Elements and History," in e.d Bruce Bongar, *Psychology of Terrorism*. Oxford University Press. pp. 87-93.

### Tutorial: Reading Academic Research.

## WEEK 2 (MAY 24-31) - CAUSES OF TERRORISM

Required Readings:

- Crenshaw, Martha, "The Causes of Terrorism," Comparative Politics 13, no. 4 (1981): 379-389.
- Kydd, Andrew, and Walter, Barbara. The Strategies of Terrorism. International Security. 31 (1): 49-79.
- Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler, The Political Economy of Terrorism (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 24-41.

Discussion Videos:

- **Northern Ireland:** Voices from the Grave - The Troubles. RTE-One.

### Tutorial: Research Question Workshop

## WEEK 3 (MAY 31-JUNE 7) - CAUSES OF INSURGENCY

Required Readings:

- Gurr, Ted R. 1970. Why Men Rebel, Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 22-56.
- Horowitz, Donald. 1985. Ethnic Groups in Conflict, Berkeley: University of California Press. 141-160, 166-175.
- Herschel I. Grossman, 1999. ``Kleptocracy and Revolutions." Oxford Economic Papers 51(2):267-83
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War," American Political Science Review 97 (1): 75-90.

Discussion Videos:

- **Ukraine:** The Donetsk People's Republic, Vice News.

### Tutorial: Writing Research Papers Workshop

## WEEK 4 (JUNE 7-14) - CAUSES OF RIOTS

Required Readings:

- Wilkinson, Steven. 2004. Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 19-51
- Horowitz, Donald. 2001. The Deadly Ethnic Riot. University of California Press. Chapter 3.

Discussion Videos:

- **Los Angeles:** "LA 92," National Geographic/Netflix.

### Tutorial: Linking Claims to Evidence

WEEK 5 (JUNE -14-21) - CAUSES OF REVOLUTION

Required Readings:

- Skocpol, Theda. 1979. States and Social Revolutions. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 2.
- Kuran, Timur (1991). "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." World Politics 44: 7-48.

Discussion Videos:

- **Egypt:** "The Square." Netflix.

### Tutorial: Paraphrasing

WEEK 6 (JUNE 21-25) - WHO PARTICIPATES IN PROTEST AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE?

Required Readings:

- Petersen, Roger D. 2001. Resistance and Rebellion: Lessons from Eastern Europe, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 32-51, 75-79.
- Lee, Alexander. 2011. "Who becomes a terrorist? Poverty, Education and the Origins of Political Violence," World Politics 63(2): 203-234.

No Discussion - work on final paper

FINAL PAPER DUE SUNDAY, JUNE 27 @ 11:59PM THROUGH WEBCOURSES

# Course Summary:

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| Fri May 21, 2021 | **Short Exam 1** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050706) | due by 11:59pm |
| | **Student Engagement Assignment** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050717) | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| Fri May 28, 2021 | Short Exam 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050710) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun May 30, 2021 | Week 2 Discussion Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050712) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 4, 2021 | Short Exam 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050711) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jun 6, 2021 | Week 3 Discussion Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050714) | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Jun 8, 2021 | Writing Assignment Topic Proposal Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2288043&include_contexts=course_1378686) | 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 11, 2021 | Short Exam 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050708) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jun 13, 2021 | Week 4 Discussion Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050715) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 18, 2021 | Short Exam 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050707) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jun 20, 2021 | Week 5 Discussion Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050713) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 25, 2021 | Short Exam 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050709) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jun 27, 2021 | Final Paper (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1378686/assignments/7050716) | due by 11:59pm |