



**HISTORY 540.01W**  
**Seminar: Twentieth Century European Revolutions**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Kowalsky  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 105  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-5:00, or by appointment  
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<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**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. Students may retake the course for credit as the topic changes.

The focus this semester is on European Revolutions. While the bulk of the course will examine events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is necessary to go back to the French Revolution at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to set a foundation for later developments. We will also examine the 19<sup>th</sup> century events that led to the major revolutionary movement—the Russian Revolution of 1917—and its collapse in 1989. We will discuss theories of revolution, the nature of revolutionary movements and revolutionaries, and the contexts that gave rise to the revolutions. We will also discuss similarities and differences among the events examined.

At the end of this course, students will have:

- Developed their knowledge and understanding of key historical events, processes, and themes in Modern Europe from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Developed their understanding of revolutions and the revolutionary process.
- Developed their ability to frame historical questions and think critically about the significance of and connections among historical events and developments.
- Developed their ability to express their historical analyses and syntheses in writing and orally more clearly, concisely, coherently, and effectively.

**Course Materials:**

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Peter Jones, *The 1848 Revolutions* (Routledge, 1991) ISBN 978-0582061064, \$37.00
- Rex Wade, *The Russian Revolution, 1917*, Second Ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0521602426, \$35.99
- Arno Mayer, *The Furies: Violence and Terror in the French and Russian Revolutions* (Princeton University Press, 2002) ISBN 978-0691090153, \$39.95

- Sylvia Neely, *A Concise History of the French Revolution* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008) ISBN 978-0742534117, \$29.95
- Vladimir Tismaneanu, *The Revolutions of 1989* (Routledge, 1999), ISBN-13: 978-0415169509, \$46.03
- Moira Donald and Tim Rees, *Reinterpreting Revolution in Twentieth Century Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2000), ISBN-13: 978-0312236236, \$47.27
- Allan Todd, *Revolutions 1789-1917* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), ISBN-13: 978-0521586009, \$15.00
- Jack Goldstone, *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford U Press, 2014) ISBN 978-0199858507, \$9.23

Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor 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. By the end of the semester, students should be able to: *discuss the course and impact of various European revolutionary events.*

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

#### *Attendance and Participation*

As this class is entirely online, there will be no class meetings (but students are free and encouraged to come and see the professor in office hour or at other mutually agreed times). The most important work for the course is therefore our online discussions, and students are expected to participate extensively in the discussion forums. 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 be responsible for leading class discussion at least once, possible twice (depending on enrollment). Discussion assignments will be made in the first week of the semester—students can choose their preferences but weeks will be assigned by the professor. Discussion leaders will be responsible for developing a list of questions and issues raised by the book under consideration, as well as researching, identifying, and explaining the historiographical significance of the book and its critical reception. These questions will need to be posted by Tuesday of each week (we will make an adjustment for the first week). Our class week will begin on Tuesday and end on Monday, thus giving students the opportunity to do their work on the weekend, should this be necessary. Students are required, however, to check the discussion boards on a daily basis and post accordingly. To obtain a passing grade (70) for discussion, students must make three posts each week that are substantive, addressing the material and the questions posed, and responding to other student posts. Posts made beyond that will earn students a higher discussion grade.

#### *Written Assignments*

This semester's major written work will be a historiographical essay on a topic of the student's choice related to the readings and topics covered in the course. Students will also complete

four book reviews over the course of the semester, due the Monday (at midnight) after the relevant topic is discussed. Students may choose books to review without prior instructor approval. Only assigned books may be reviewed. Additional details of the written assignments are available on the eCollege site.

### **Grading**

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

Historiography Essay	30%
Book Reviews	40%
Participation	30%

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

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION</b>
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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](mailto: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 do not include personal information on eCollege submissions. 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. 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 Sarah Northam. 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:

Sarah Northam, Reference Librarian  
Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu  
903-886-5714

## 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). 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/>.

### ***Nondiscrimination Statement***

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

## **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. The major readings are listed below, but each topic covered will have supplemental readings provided or indicated on eCollege.

Week 1: January 20-26. Introduction to modern revolutions  
Read: Goldstone

Week 2: January 27-February 2. The French Revolution  
Read: Neely

Week 3: February 3-9. The French Revolution

Week 4: February 10-16. 1848  
Read: Jones

Week 5: February 17-23. 1848

Week 6: February 24-March 2. 1789-1917  
Read: Todd

Week 7: March 3-9. The Russian Revolution  
Read: Wade

Week 8: March 17-23. The Russian Revolution

Spring Break: March 17-23

Week 9: March 24-30. The Russian Revolution

Week 10: March 31-April 6. Terror  
Read: Mayer

Week 11: April 7-13. Terror

Week 12: April 14-20. Other 20<sup>th</sup> C Revolutions  
Read: Donald and Rees

Week 13: April 21-27. Other 20<sup>th</sup> C Revolutions

Week 14: April 28-May 4: 1989 and Beyond  
Read Tismaneanu

Week 15: May 5-11: 1989 and beyond  
Historiography Paper Due