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21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution
Fall 2007

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Fall 2008

Lectures: **MW 3-4**

Recitation: **R01: Th 12-1**
R02: Th 3-4
R03: F 3-4

Prof. W. Broadhead Prof. J. Ravel Prof. E. Wood

21H.001, a HASS-D, CI course, explores fundamental questions about the causes and nature of revolutions. How do people overthrow their rulers? How do they establish new governments? Do radical upheavals require bloodshed, violence, or even terror? How have revolutionaries attempted to establish their ideals and realize their goals? We will look at a set of major political transformations throughout the world and across centuries to understand the meaning of revolution and evaluate its impact. By the end of the course, students

will be able to offer reasons why some revolutions succeed and others fail. Materials for the course include the writings of revolutionaries, declarations and constitutions, music, films, art, memoirs, and newspapers.

READINGS

The readings for the class are from a combination of books, articles, and shorter documents. The books are available at the MIT bookstore and the articles and documents (indicated by an asterisk) are available on the class website. Please purchase the following books:

Peter McPhee, *The French Revolution, 1789-1799* (Oxford University Press, 2002).
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 3rd ed., 2008).

ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION 20%

Your grade for class participation will be based on the following:

1. Attendance
   You are required to attend both the Monday and Wednesday lectures and your weekly recitation.
2. Reading
   You are required to complete all reading assignments in time for the meeting with which they are associated, as indicated on the schedule. You are also required to bring with you to lecture/recitation a copy of any reading that has been assigned.
3. Active participation
   You are expected to arrive at your weekly recitations having completed all the reading and prepared to pose questions and *actively* to contribute to the discussion of the material covered that week. In addition to our regular discussions, we will hold three formal in-class debates for which each student will be required to contribute to an oral argument in a more structured format, as encouraged by the guidelines for the CI-H requirement.

COURSE WEB-SITE FORUM POSTS 5%

Over the course of the term, you will be required to post a response of 200-300 words to each of six topics that will be posted on the course Forum. We will post topics in Weeks 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. Your responses should be thoughtful and thought-provoking. You are not expected to do any extra preparation for these posts: we have carefully calculated your weekly workload to allow for about 30 minutes for the forum posts in the weeks in question.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS **60%**

There are FOUR required writing assignments for this subject: THREE papers of 7 pages, ONE of which must be revised and resubmitted, in accordance with the guidelines for CI subjects. Each assignment will count for **15%** of your final grade. Before each paper, all students must submit a draft introductory paragraph to be discussed with the writing tutor in a mandatory meeting.

The Revision:
In order to catch any early problems as well as to allow time for thoughtful revision, you will be required to revise and resubmit one of the first two papers due. As part of the revision process, ***all*** students will be required to attend a 30-minute tutorial with the writing instructor for this course at which you will have the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving the quality of your writing. In order to spread out the demand for tutorials, half the class will revise Paper #1 and the other half will revise Paper #2.

Due dates for the writing assignments are as follows

Paper #1	Oct. 1
Revision of Paper #1	Oct. 15
Paper #2	Oct. 29
Revision of Paper #2	Nov. 12
Paper #3	Nov. 26

Suggested paper topics and guidelines will be distributed in due course.

FINAL EXAM **15%**

A final exam of 3 hours will be given during the regular examination period. Full details of the expectations for the exam will be circulated in due course.

INTRODUCTION

Week One: What is a Revolution?

Sept. 3: Introduction

Sept. 4/5: Recitation: Definitions of Revolution
1) *Excerpts from Noah Webster, Karl Marx, Lenin, Mao, the OED, the Beatles and Raymond Williams

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PART ONE: THE ATHENIAN REVOLUTION

Week Two: Athenian Revolution

Sept. 8: Revolution and Ancient Greece

1) *S.B. Pomeroy et al., *A Brief History of Ancient Greece,* pp. 110-148

Sept. 10: Archaic Athens and the 'Old Regime'

1) *I. Morris, 'The Strong Principle of Equality and the Archaic Origins of Greek Democracy', in *Demokratia* (1996) pp. 19-48.
2) *Aristotle, *The Politics*, excerpts.

Sept. 11/12: Recitation: Politics in the Polis

Week Three: Athenian Revolution, continued

Sept. 15: The Emergence of the Athenian *demos*: 594 BC

Sept. 17: The Aftermath of 594

1) *R. Wallace, "Revolutions and a New Order in Solonian Athens", in *Origins of Democracy*, pp. 49-82.
2) *Plutarch, *Solon*, excerpts.
3) **The Athenian Constitution* 1-19.

Sept. 18/19: Recitation: Solon's Athens

Week Four: Athenian Revolution, continued

Sept. 22: *NO CLASS*

Sept. 24: Popular Action and Constitutional Reform: 508/7 BC

1) *J. Ober, 'The Athenian Revolution of 508/7 BC: violence, authority, and the origins of democracy' (1993) pp. 260-286.
2) *Herodotus, *Histories*, excerpts.
3) **The Athenian Constitution*, 20-22.

Sept. 25/26: Recitation: Cleisthenes' Athens

Week Five: Athenian Revolution, continued

Sept. 29: Democracy Top to Bottom: 462-450 BC

Paper One Due on October 1

Oct. 1: 5th Century Athens

1) *K. Raaflaub, 'Power in the Hands of the People: foundations of Athenian democracy' (1998) pp. 31-66.
2) *Plutarch, *Cimon* and *Pericles*, excerpts.
3) **The Athenian Constitution*, 23-41.

Oct 2/3: **DEBATE: How revolting?! The transformation of Athens in the Mid-Fifth Century**

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PART TWO:
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION IN THE AGE OF ATLANTIC REVOLUTIONS

Week Six: France and America

Oct. 6: Introduction: The Old Regime and Revolution at the End of the Eighteenth Century

1) McPhee, 1-49

2) *Excerpts from the 1789 French "Lists of Grievances," from Paul Beik, ed. *The French Revolution* (New York, 1970), pp. 45-63.
3) *"Petition of Women of the Third Estate to the King," in Levy, *et al*., eds. *Women in Revolutionary Paris, 1789-1795* (Illinois, 1979), 18-21.
4) *Optional online reading: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch 1, "Social Causes of the Revolution," Ch. 2, "Monarchy Embattled," and Ch 3, "The Enlightenment and Human Rights." (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)

Oct. 8: The American Revolution (Guest Speaker: Professor Pauline Maier, MIT)

1) *Statement on Independence by the Town of Boston, Massachusetts, May 23, 1776
2) *Virginia Declaration of Rights, early draft by George Mason and slightly modified by a committee of the Virginia Convention from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for June 12, 1776
3) *Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776
4) *Massachusetts Constitution of 1780: preamble, Declaration of Rights, Opening of "Part the Second"
5) *U.S. Constitution of 1787

Oct. 9/10: Recitation: When Do Regimes Become Old? When Do Revolutions Become Necessary?

Week Seven: France, 1789

Oct. 13: NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY

Revisions on Paper One Due on October 15

Oct. 15: 1789: Riots and Rights

1) McPhee, 50-88
2) *"Decrees of the National Assembly (10-11 August 1789)," and "The October Days," in Keith Michael Baker, ed. *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (Chicago, 1987), 226-237
3) *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)
4) *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen (1791)
5) *The Constitution of 1791 (excerpts)

6) *Optional online reading: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch 4, “Paris and the Politics of Rebellion,” and Ch. 5, “Women and the Revolution.” (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)

Oct.16/17: Recitation: The Principles and Practices of 1789

Week Eight: Republicanism and Terror

Oct. 20: 1792: The Collapse of the Constitutional Monarchy and the Trial of the King

1) McPhee, 89-108
2) *”The Capture of the Tuileries Palace, 1792,” in Philip Dawson, ed. *The French Revolution* (Prentice Hall, 1967), 92-118.
3) *Optional online reading: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch 6, “The Monarchy Falls.” (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)

Oct. 22: 1793-1794: The Terror

1) McPhee, 109-153
2) *”The Evolution of the Terror,” in Keith Michael Baker, ed. *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (Chicago, 1987), 330-62.
3) *François Furet, “Terror,” in Furet and Ozouf, eds. *A Critical Dictionary of the French Revolution* (Harvard, 1989), 137-50
4) *Optional online readiing: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch 7, “War, Terror, and Resistance to the Revolution.” (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)

Oct. 23/24. **DEBATE: Was the Terror Justified?**

Week Nine: Napoleon and Haiti

Oct. 27: Ending the Revolution? Directory, Consulate, Empire, 1795-1815

1) McPhee, 154-77
2) *Optional online readiing: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch 9, “The Napoleonic Experience.” (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution

Paper Two Due on October 29

Oct. 29: 1791-1804: The Haitian Revolution

1) *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution, Ch 8, "Slavery and the Haitian Revolution." (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)
2) * The Haitian Constitution (1805)

Oct. 30/31: Recitation: What is the Significance of Revolution ca. 1800?

1) McPhee, 178-204
2) *Optional online readiing: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, Ch. 10, "Legacies of the Revolution." (http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution)

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PART THREE:
THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Week Ten: Russia Under the Old Regime

Nov. 3: Autocracy and Its Discontents

1) Sheila Fitzpatrick, The Russian Revolution, pp. 15-31
    a. Stanley W. Page, Russia in Revolution: "Introduction," pp. 1-15
2) *"A Village Reacts to Emancipation," pp. 15-18
3) *D. M. Wallace, "Consequences of the Emancipation" (1881)
4) *"The Spirit of Nihilism" (from Turgenev, Fathers and Sons
5) *"Revolutionism of Despair" (from Venturi, Roots of Revolution)
6) *"V Narod [to the people] in 1868" (from Turgenev, Virgin Soil), pp. 26-35
7) *"Students and the Revolution" (Wildman, 1960), pp. 47-49
8) *Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto (1848), pp. 1-32

Nov. 5: The 1905 Revolution

1) Fitzpatrick, pp. 31-39
    a. "Father Gapon's Petition to Nicholas II, Jan. 1905"
2) *"Concessions of Nicholas II"

3) *Program of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party in Basil Dmytryshyn, Imperial Russia: A Source Book, pp. 409-16, 425-31
4) *Witte's account of the Manifesto, http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/courses/hist330-60/Supplementary%20Material/HTML/October%20Manifesto.htm

Nov. 6/7: Recitation: When do regimes become old? When do revolutions become necessary?

Week Eleven: The Revolution of 1917

Nov. 10: *NO CLASS – VETERANS' DAY*

Revision of Paper Two Due on November 12

Nov. 12: The February Revolution and the Provisional Government
1) Fitzpatrick, pp. 40-61
2) *"Abdication of Nicholas II and Grand Duke Michael," in Dmytryshyn, pp. 523-25
3) *Lenin documents from Jeffrey Brooks and Georgiy Chernyavskiy, Lenin and the Making of the Soviet State, pp. 44-60

Nov. 13/14: Recitation: What was Dual Power and why did the period between the February and October Revolutions prove so unstable?

Week Twelve: Revolutionary Outcomes

Nov. 17: The October Revolution & the Civil War

1) Fitzpatrick, pp. 61-92
2) *Maxim Gorky, Untimely Thoughts, pp. 83-95
3) *John Reed, Ten Days that Shook the World, pp. 654-84

Nov. 19: The New Economic Policy (Russia's Thermidor?)

1) Fitzpatrick, pp. 93-119
2) *Documents on the Kronstadt uprising (March 1921), in Avrich, Kronstadt 1921, pp. 235-43
3) *Sheila Fitzpatrick, "The Problem of Class Identity in NEP Society," pp. 12-33

Nov. 20/21: DEBATE: Reds vs. Whites: Was this a workers' and peasants' revolution?

Week Thirteen: Stalinism

Nov. 24: **Stalin's Revolution from Above**

1) Fitzpatrick, pp. 120-72
2) Trotsky, "Bonapartism as a Regime of Crisis," in Revolution Betrayed, pp. 273-74

Paper Three Due on November 26

Nov. 26: Film: first hour of "Reds" (194 minutes)

Nov. 27/28: NO RECITATION - THANKSGIVING

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COMPARISONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Week Fourteen: Revolution in China and Eastern Europe

Dec. 1: The Chinese Revolutions of 1911, 1949, and 1978 (Guest Speaker: Prof. Peter Perdue, Yale University)

1) *Mao Zedong, "The Peasant Movement in Hunan"
2) *"Tiananmen documents"
3) *"Three Views of Revolution"
4) *"Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek"
5) *Pictures and Maps of Twentieth-Century China

Dec. 3: The Revolutions of 1989 in Eastern Europe (Guest Speaker: Professor Irena Grudzinska Gross, Princeton University)

1) *Robert Daniels, "The Anti-Communist Revolutions in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 1989-1991," in David Parker, ed., Revolutions and the Revolutionary Tradition.
2) *Krishan Kumar, "The 1989 Revolutions and the Idea of revolution."
3) *Padraic Kenney, Carnival of Revolution, pp. 249-61, 274-89.

Dec 4/5: Recitation: China and 1989 (East and West)

Week Fifteen: The Middle East, and a Discussion

Dec. 8: Revolution in the Middle East in the Twentieth Century (Guest Speaker: Associate Provost and Professor of History Philip Khoury, MIT)

1) *Nikki R. Keddie, "Iranian Revolutions in Historical Perspective," American Historical Review 88 (1983), 579-598.

Dec. 10: Panel Discussion: The Future of Revolution?

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Final Examination: Date, Time, and Place TBA