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PSC 322.01: Politics of Revolution

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Political Science 323
Politics of Revolution

Fall 1994
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF

Texts: Peter Sederberg, Fires Within

Harold Vetter and Gary Perlstein, Perspectives on
Terrorism

Gabriel Weimann and Conrad Winn, The Theater of
Terror

Requirements:

This course involves an exploration of various theories, interpretations and explanations of civil violence. The purpose is to develop a model describing where and under what conditions politically relevant violence is likely to occur.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on September 28 and the second on November 2. Each exam will count for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam will count for 40% of the final grade. The final exam is scheduled for December 19, 1:10-3:10. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

An additional requirement is a 10-15 minute class presentation. This assignment is intended to employ the theoretical material developed in the course to explain some aspect of an actual incident of civil violence. While students are free to choose their own topics, they must be approved no later than October 7. The presentation is to include an outline to be distributed to the class. This report counts for 20% of the final grade.

Topic outline:

1. Concepts and Terms
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Introduction, Ch. 1-2
2. Theories and Explanations
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 3-4
3. Deprivation Theories
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 5
4. System Failure Theories
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 6

First Exam--September 28

5. Revolutions: Participants
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 7; Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 6
6. Ideology
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 8
7. Civil Violence and Strategy
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 9

Second Number--November 2

8. Terrorism: History and Context
Reading Assignment: Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 1, 2, 3
9. Terrorism: Targets and Weapons
Reading Assignment: Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 4, 7, 9
10. Terrorism: Goals and Objectives
Reading Assignment: Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 8
11. Terrorism and the Media
Reading Assignment: Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 5; Weimann and Winn (whole book)
12. Dealing with Terrorism
Reading Assignment: Vetter and Perlstein, Ch. 10, 11, 12
13. Case Studies
Reading Assignment: Sederberg, Ch. 10-12

Final Exam December 19

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADING OPTION