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PSC 323.01: Politics of Revolution

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Political Science 323
Politics of Revolution

Fall 1995
Office Hours: 9:30-11:00 MWF
Or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Texts: Peter Sederberg, Fires Within

Peter Sederberg, Terrorist Myths

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 and who is likely to participate.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on October 5 and the second on November 9. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam counts for 40% of the final grade. The final exam is scheduled for December 20, 10:10-12:10. NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

Additional work consists of a presentation and a paper. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long. The material contained in the presentation should be written up in a paper (5-10 pages long.) For this assignment, the theoretical material developed in the course should be employed to explain some aspect of an actual incident of civil violence. The presentation/paper consists of four parts: a description of the theory being employed, a description of the incident of civil violence, an assessment of the utility of the theory, and a bibliography. The mechanics of the paper must follow the Turabian manual of style (fifth edition). Papers which fail to conform to Turabian will be returned for correction. The presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. All papers are due November 30. This combined assignment counts for 20% of the final grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSORS. THEREFORE IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE. EARLY PAPERS ARE WELCOME!

In order to make the experience of this course as congenial as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do

not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

TOPIC OUTLINE:

READING ASSIGNMENT

1. Concepts and Terms

Fires Within Ch. 1-2
Terrorist Myths, Ch. 1

2. Theories and Explanations

Fires Within, Ch. 3-4

3. Deprivation Theories

Fires Within, Ch. 5

4. System Failure Theories

Fires Within, Ch. 6

First Exam--October 5

5. Revolutions: Participants

Fires Within, Ch. 7
Terrorist Myths, Ch. 3

6. Ideology

Fires Within, Ch. 8

7. Civil Violence and Strategy

Fires Within, Ch. 9

Second Exam--November 9

8. Terrorism Defined

Terrorist Myths, Ch. 2

9. Terrorism: Goals and Objectives

Terrorist Myths, Ch. 4

10. International Terrorism

Terrorist Myths, Ch. 5

11. Terrorism and the Media

Terrorist Myths, Ch. 7

12. Dealing with Terrorism

Terrorist Myths, Ch. 6

13. Case Studies

Fires Within, Ch. 10-12

Final Exam December 20 (10:10-12:10 LA 337)

Note: October 9 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.