

Soc 341
Historical Sociology
Fall 2002

Professor Ian Roxborough
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Tues and Thurs 12:50 – 2:10
Light Engineering 152
Office Hours: Tues 2:20 – 3:20, Thurs 11:30-12:30, and by appointment

Read this syllabus! I will assume that you have read and understood the materials herein referring to course requirements, late papers, plagiarism, etc.

Disability

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability that may affect your ability to carry out the assigned course work, I urge that you contact the staff in the Disabled Student Services office (DSS), Room 133 Humanities, 632-6748/TDD. DSS will review your concerns and determine with you what accommodations may be necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Aim of Course

This course introduces you to some aspects of historical sociology. By historical sociology I mean the application of sociological concepts, methods and theories to historical events and processes. In other words, how do sociologists look at history? Can we use history to test sociological theories? The aim is to (1) show you how sociologists examine events in the past and (2) to show you how historical processes of social change have influenced the contemporary world.

This semester we will concentrate on revolutions in the modern world. The course begins with a brief overview of modern sociological theories of revolution. We then look at three case studies – the American revolution, the early phase of the war in Vietnam, and the rise of the Nazis – and apply the theories to these cases. In what ways are these cases revolutions, and in what ways not? How do these cases help us evaluate the theories of revolution examined in the first part of the course?

Course goals

I will be looking for (1) an understanding of the relevant sociological concepts and theories as they are introduced in the course, (2) an understanding of how these concepts and theories are used to explain the various events we will be studying, and (3) a critical evaluation of the strengths and limitations of these concepts and theories.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an offense. *There's nothing wrong with using the words or thoughts of others or getting their help - indeed it is good to do so long as you explicitly acknowledge your debt. It is plagiarism when you pass on the word of others as though it were your own.*

- Copying without quotation marks or paraphrasing without acknowledgement from someone else's writing.*
- Using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement.*
- Handing in work for one course that you handed in for credit for another course without the permission of both instructors.*

When you use published words, data, or thoughts, you should footnote your use. (See any handbook or dictionary for footnote forms.) When you use the words or ideas of friends or classmates, you should thank them in an endnote (e.g., "I am grateful to my friend so and so for the argument in the third paragraph." If friends just give you reactions, but not suggestions, you need not acknowledge that help in print (though it is gracious to do so).

You can strengthen your paper by using material by others - so long as you acknowledge your use, and so long as you use that material as a building block for your own thinking rather than as a substitute for it.

The academic and scientific world depends on people using the work of others for their own work. Dishonesty destroys the possibility of working together as colleagues. Faculty and researchers don't advance knowledge by passing off others' work as their own. Students don't learn by copying what they should think out on their own.

Therefore, the university insists that instructors report every case of plagiarism to the Academic Judiciary Committee (which keeps record of all cases). The recommended penalty for plagiarism is failure for the course.

Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism. Now that you have read this, you cannot plead ignorance. Therefore, if you have any questions about the proper acknowledgement of help, be sure to ask me.

Books to purchase:

Countryman, The American Revolution

Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power

Race, War Comes to Long An

There is also a package of xerox readings available from Budget Print.

Evaluation

A. There are **FOUR** parts to the course. The first part counts for 16% of the final grade. The remaining three parts will each count for 28% of the final grade. To calculate your final grade, I will use the numerical grading scheme shown below, multiply each numerical grade by the percentage weight it has in the course, add the four grades, and then convert this final number into a letter grade.

B. Attendance: **Attendance is required.** If you miss 5-7 classes, I will reduce your final grade by one grade (e.g. from B to B-); thereafter, I will reduce your final grade by one grade for each additional 3 classes missed. If you miss 3 classes or fewer, I will increase your final grade by one grade.

C. The in-class exams will test both the material covered in class and the reading. There will be questions on the reading even if it has not been explicitly discussed in class.

D. There will be **no make-up** exams.

E. If you are unable to make an exam, you may write an optional paper instead.

F. You may write the optional paper instead of or as well as taking the in-class exam. If you do both, I will take the higher grade of the two, and this will be your grade for this part of the course.

G. Optional papers are due on the dates indicated in the course outline, unless you have a medical (or other compelling) reason for requiring extra time. It must be on the question indicated in this syllabus: you may not write on a subject of your own choosing. It should be your own work. You should acknowledge the relevant sources. There is no fixed page limit for the paper; between 5 and 7 double-spaced pages is a reasonable length. The optional paper does not require any reading other than that assigned in this course. It is simply an alternative method of assessment.

H. Take-home papers must be your own work. Plagiarism – the use of someone else's work without proper attribution – will not be tolerated.

I. If you fail to get a grade on any of the four parts of the course, and if you have not made explicit arrangements with me for an incomplete, I will consider this as a failure for the course.

J. Writing requirement: the writing requirement will be met if you do two take-home papers.

Grading scheme

A	85-100
A-	80-84
B+	75-79
B	70-74
B-	65-69
C+	60-64
C	55-59
C-	50-54
D+	45-49
D	40-44
F	0-39

Outline

I: Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements

Tues Sept 3: Defining historical sociology; defining revolution

Thurs Sept 5: Theories of revolution: classical theories

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party, 1848, selections (xerox reader)

Karl Marx, Preface to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, 1859 (xerox reader)

Charles Tilly, "Conflict, Revolt and Revolution" chapter 1 of his European Revolutions, 1492-1992, 1993 (Xerox reader)

Tues Sept 10: Theories of revolution: structural theories

Theda Skocpol, "France, Russia, China: a structural analysis of social revolutions" in Theda Skocpol, Social Revolutions in the Modern World, 1994 (Xerox reader)

Jeff Goodwin, No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991, 2001, pp. 8-31, 40-58 (Xerox reader)

Timothy Wickham-Crowley, "Structural Theories of Revolution" in John Foran (ed), Theorizing Revolutions, 1997 (Xerox reader)

Thurs Sept 12: Theories of revolution: culture and agency

William Sewell, "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case" in Theda Skocpol, Social Revolutions in the Modern World, 1994 (Xerox reader)

Theda Skocpol, "Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Construction of State Power: a reply to William Sewell" in Theda Skocpol, Social Revolutions in the Modern World, 1994 (Xerox reader)

Tues Sept 17 follows Mon schedule: **no class**

Thurs Sept 19: **EXAM**

Optional Paper due Tuesday October 1: What are the principal issues and controversies in sociological theories of revolution? Can the issues be resolved? If so, how? If not, why not?

II: The American Revolution

Tues Sept 24:

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 1

Thurs Sept 26:

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 2

Tues Oct 1:

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 3

Thurs Oct 3

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 4

Tues Oct 8:

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 5

Thurs Oct 10

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 6

Tues Oct 15:

Countryman, The American Revolution, chapter 7

Thurs Oct 17: **EXAM**

Optional Paper due Thursday October 24: How useful is it to describe the American War of Independence as a “revolution?” Who were the actors, and what were the issues and conflicts involved?

III: Vietnam

Tues Oct 22:

READING: William Duiker, Sacred War, chapters 1 (“Roots of Revolution”) and 2 (“The War of Resistance Against the French”) (Xerox reader)

Thurs Oct 24

READING: Race, War Comes to Long An, introduction and chapter 1-2 (pp. 1-43)

Tues Oct 29:

READING: Race, War Comes to Long An, chapter 2 (pp. 44-104)

Thurs Oct 31

READING: Race, War Comes to Long An, chapter 3 (pp. 105-140)

Tues Nov 5:

READING: Race, War Comes to Long An, chapter 4 (pp. 141-209)

Thurs Nov 7:

READING: Race, War Comes to Long An, chapters 5 + 6 (pp. 210-276)

Tues Nov 12:

READING: Andrew Krepinevich, “Vietnam: Evaluating the Ground War, 1965-68” in Dennis Showalter and John Albert (eds) An American Dilemma, 1993 (Xerox reader)

Thurs Nov 14: **EXAM**

Optional Paper due Thursday November 21: Was the Vietnamese war a revolutionary struggle? What were the options and strategies open to the contending forces in the struggle for power in South Vietnam prior to 1965? How did this change after 1965?

IV: The Nazi Seizure of Power

Tues Nov 19:

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, preface + chapters 1-3

Thurs Nov 21

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chapters 4-6

Tues Nov 26:

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chapters 7-9

Thurs Nov 28 Thanksgiving

Tues Dec 3:

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chapters 10-11

Thurs Dec 5

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chapters 12-15

Tues Dec 10

READING: Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chapters 16-20

Thurs Dec 12: Review Session

FINAL EXAM is Thursday December 19, 2:00 – 4:30

Optional Paper due not later than Monday December 23: Why did ordinary people support the Nazis? Was the Nazi seizure of power a revolution?