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Seminar: Out of Revolution

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POL 494 SEMINAR: OUT OF REVOLUTION Dr. Samson

LUB 206 Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 MW, 10-11 TH Phone: 7935

DESCRIPTION

This seminar will be devoted to a consideration of the role of revolution in our political tradition and the revolutionary faith that has stamped its character on the modern mind. Against the backdrop of world-changing events we will examine various revolutionary causes and the lives and struggles of the political pilgrims who espoused -- and sometimes renounced -- them. Readings and discussions will be designed to facilitate the writing of a major research paper on a topic of the student's choice.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for all assigned readings, including handouts and other supplementary materials. Students should keep lecture notes and supplementary materials in a looseleaf notebook.
2. Participation is essential to the success of any seminar. For this reason, reading assignments must be completed before the class meets.
3. Attendance is required. One week's absence may be excused for good cause. Each week's absence after the first will result in the loss of one grade point.
4. Students will be tested on their knowledge of material covered in the readings and seminar discussions through two take-home essay exams. The first will be given on February 15. The second will be given March 27.
5. The centerpiece of the seminar is the individual research project. Each student will research, write, deliver, and defend an 18-30 page term paper. The paper should have a clearly defined thesis and reflect research in the professional literature of political science as well as other fields relevant to the project. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and follow a standard bibliographic style (Turabian, Chicago, or Sage). Please read the Writer's Guide and pick a topic for exploratory research by February 8. A bibliography and outline are due on February 27. Be sure to make an appointment to discuss your plans before February 22. A working draft is to be completed by March 13. The final paper (2 copies) is due on April 10. Each paper will be presented, discussed, and critiqued during a regular class session.

TEXTBOOKS

Biddle, Arthur W., and Kenneth M. Holland. Writer's Guide: Political Science. [B]

Davies, James. When Men Revolt and Why. (Reserve Desk) [D]

Johnson, Paul. Modern Times (Reserve Desk) [J]
Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Erik von. Leftism Revisited, 2nd ed. [K]
Mason, Alpheus. Free Government in the Making. (Reserve Desk) [M]
Rosenstock-Huessy, Eugen. Out of Revolution. (Reserve Desk) [R]
Supplementary Readings (Red Notebook at Reserve Desk) [S]

SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION: MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS (January 9-16)

Kuehnelt-Leddihn, "Whiff from an Empty Bottle."
Willson, "The Gods of Revolution."
Kirk, "The Armed Doctrine in Fiction."
Scott, "The Shape of Events (Our Revolution)."
Dostoevsky, "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor."

PERSPECTIVES ON REVOLUTION: PART ONE (January 16-21)

Tinder, Political Thinking, pp. 171-91.
D. 85-91 (Aristotle).
Shafarevich, The Socialist Phenomenon, pp. 2-17.
Rushdoony, Biblical Philosophy of History, pp. 1-17, 40-44.

REVOLUTIONS OF ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES (January 23-30)

Bible: Judges 9
Durant, Caesar and Christ, pp. 111-27.
R. 3-32, 453-82.
Reports: R. 485-515; 516-61; 562-606.
K. Introduction, 33-44.
Cohn, Pursuit of the Millenium, pp. 1-40.
Shafarevich, pp. 18-46, 67-79.
D. 13-32.

REFORMATION AND ANGLO-AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS (February 1-8)

Brutus, "Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants," pp. 331-48.
M. 8-22.
R. 257-80, 397-406.
Hill, "English Revolution and Brotherhood of Man."
K. 3-30, 45-56.
Amos, Defending the Declaration, pp. 27-33, 127-50.

FRENCH REVOLUTION: SOURCES (February 13-20)

K. 57-84
Toulmin, Cosmopolis, pp. 175-80.
Chilton, "Preface 11."
Billington, Fire in the Minds of Men, 3-23.
Reports: Billington, pp. 24-53; 54-85, 86-123.

FIRST EXAM: Due February 22

FRENCH REVOLUTION: REACTIONS (February 22-25)

K. 85-124.
O'Brien, "Vindication of Edmund Burke."
Burke, Reflections on the French Revolution.
Paine, pp. 27-43.

PERSPECTIVES ON REVOLUTION: PART TWO (February 27-March 1)

Brinton, Anatomy of Revolution.
Burckhardt, Reflections on History.
Groen van Prinsterer, Unbelief and Revolution.
Rejai, Strategy of Political Revolution.
Van den Haag, Political Violence and Civil Disobedience.

REVOLUTIONARIES (March 4-6)

K. 127-36, 169-94.
Marx, Communist Manifesto.
Reports: Carr, Studies in Revolution, pp. 1-14.
Billington, Fire, chs. 10-11.
Scott, The Secret Six.

THE GREAT WATERSHED (March 6-8)

K. 137-66, 197-216.
Johnson, Modern Times, chs. 2-3.

THE THIRTIES AND FORTIES (March 11-13)

K. 217-94.
Khrushchev, Khrushchev Remembers.
Chambers, "Letter to My Children."

SPRING RECESS: March 15-22

CAMPUS REVOLUTIONARIES (March 25-29)

K. 295-340.
Hyde, Dedication and Leadership.
Port Huron Statement
Marcuse, "Repressive Tolerance"
Reports: Collier and Horowitz, ch. 2, 9, 11.
Csorba, Academic License, chs. 2, 5, 7.
Reports: Bloom, Closing of the American Mind, pp. 313-35, 336-56, 356-82.
Portland Declaration

SECOND EXAM: April 5

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Seminar: Out of Revolution SECOND EXAM Dr. Samson

1. "Christian imagery [including 'Edenism'] is important in the socialist-communist vision," according to Kuehnelt-Leddihn (p. 95), "with its accent on on saving the world through the proletariat. Unfortunately, the Christian churches are not entirely innocent in this respect." Examine several specific ways -- by citing the relevant passages -- in which the revolutionary movements of the last three centuries display this motif. What conclusions can be drawn from this pattern of behavior?

2. Discuss the personal observations of Whittaker Chambers, Douglas Hyde, and David Horowitz on the experience of being a revolutionary. Can you identify any common characteristics, experiences, or stages of development? What finally led each of them to forsake the cause to which they had devoted themselves? How do you think their experience (has) colored their outlook?

3. Identify at least five ways that democracy and ethnic nationalism were manifested in the French Revolution -- and the later Nazi Revolution. Specifically, how did the various revolutionary practices of the Jacobins (and the National Socialists) reflect their ideological sources -- for example, Rousseau and/or Sade?