The purpose of this seminar is to provide students with an overview of the literature on revolution and democratization. I expect students to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the leading theories on democratization processes and revolutionary outcomes, ways to test such theories, and policy implications of the current literature. Along with weekly class presentations (15% of the overall grade), tests (15% of the overall grade), and a network analysis assignment (10% of the overall grade), I will grade students on a 20-30 page research paper (50% of the overall grade) that addresses a specific issue related to revolution and democratization, as well as a presentation of the paper (10% of the overall grade).

*Question of the semester:* Can social science predict the onset of revolutions?

*Required Texts:*


Recommended Software:

UCINet, available at https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/home

Network Assignment:
As noted above, 10% of the overall grade will involve a network assignment. Each student will map a network of a particular nonviolent resistance movement. Students can draw on recent nonviolent resistance movements from the “Arab Spring,” the democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe (1989-1991), the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979), or any other approved movement.

One: Approaches to Comparative Politics

Discussion Questions: What are the core concerns and methodological approaches of comparative politics? How does comparative politics differ from area studies? What are the major differences between qualitative and quantitative methodologies? What are the strengths and weaknesses of large-n and small-n studies? What is a unit of analysis?

Readings:

King, Gary et al. (1994) Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research.


Two: Violence and the State

Discussion Question: What is the role of violence in establishing and preserving the state?

Readings:


Three: Defining Democracy, Democratization, and Revolution

Discussion Questions: How can one measure democracy? What is democratization? What are the major differences between democracy and autocracy? Are all autocracies the same? Do elections equate “democracy?” What is revolution?

Readings:


Huntington, Samuel P. (1991) The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century. Ch. 1-2 and Ch. 6


Four: Modernization Theory

Discussion Questions: Why do some nation-states succeed in economic and political development when others fail? How does culture affect politics? Are poverty and autocracy the result of cultural characteristics? What roles do economic development and culture have on the potential for democratization? Why do some democratic movements succeed when seemingly similar movements fail? Is the “human development sequence” a convincing theory, and do the empirics support the “sequence?”

Readings:


**Five: Collective Identity, Democracy, and Revolution**

*Discussion Questions:* How does ethnicity contribute to the construction of collective identity in general, and nationality in particular? Do heterogeneous societies face greater challenges in instituting democracy than homogeneous societies? Do primordial identities affect electoral outcomes? How does collective identity affect revolution?

*Readings:*


Horowitz, Donald. (1985) *Ethnic Groups in Conflict.* Ch. 1 and 3


**Six: Organizational Strategies, Structures, and the Outcomes of Revolutionary Campaigns**

*Discussion Questions:* What sparks revolutions? Do non-violent movements require a “radical” flank in order to achieve success? What role do revolutionaries play in democratization? Is non-violent resistance more effective than political violence in revolutionary campaigns? How do participation levels affect the outcomes of resistance campaigns? What are the key differences between active and passive forms of resistance? Is political violence effective for achieving political goals? How does credibility affect a resistance organization’s ability to gain concessions? Do empirical studies on political violence support political bargaining theories? When violent resistance organizations do succeed, in what ways do they usually win? What factors contribute the most to organizational success?
Readings:

DeFronzo, James. (1996) Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements. Ch. 1 and 9


**Network Assignment Due**

Seven: From Revolutionaries to Governors

Discussion Questions: Under what conditions do violent resistance organizations transition to mainstream political parties? When do resistance organizations precipitate a state’s democratization? How does armed conflict shape post-conflict political landscapes?

Readings:


Eight: Anarchy and Resisting the State

Discussion Questions: Are all states, including democracies, inherently oppressive? Is anarchy a viable way of political life?

Readings:


**Final Papers Due**

Words to the Wise

I will dock late assignments one-letter grade per day. IMPORTANT: I will not tolerate plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

I do not allow recordings of any type without permission.

Grades are earned not given.