

## HIST 520.NO1: Topics in European History Revolutions

CRN TBA | 3 hours | Winter/Spring 2022

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**Instructor: Dr. Casey Harison**

**Email: charison@usi.edu**

**Online Meeting: (Zoom address)**

**Phone: 812-319-8300**

**Online Office Hours: TBA & by  
appointment**

**Course Dates : January 10, 2022 – May 6,  
2022**

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***This is a synchronous course that meets Thursdays, 5-7:45 pm Central / 6-8:45 pm Eastern.  
Any times listed in the syllabus are Central time.***

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**Office Number: TBA**



*J.-L. David, "À Marat" (1793)*

In comparison with monarchy and other heirlooms from the cannibals and cave-dwellers, democracy is of course a great conquest, but it leaves behind the blind play of forces in the social relations of men untouched. It was against this deeper sphere of the unconscious that the October revolution was the first to raise up its hand. The soviet system wishes to bring aim and plan into the very basis of society, where up to now only accumulated consequences have reigned.

--- Leon Trotsky, *The Russian Revolution* (1932)

### Course Description

This course examines the origins and progress of European revolutions from the French Revolution of 1789 through the revolutions that swept across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in 1989-1991. Most assessments consider the 1789 French Revolution and the 1917 Russian Revolution to be watersheds in world history. If we think of *change* as the crucial element of history, then there is probably more history packed into revolution than any other kind of human activity. Revolutions are intensely politicized events and so, predictably, are their histories. Even today, one might judge the political persuasion of a person by their feelings about the French or Russian Revolutions. This does not mean that those who made or opposed revolution were not sincere in their beliefs, or that there is nothing to be learned from the study of revolution. Indeed, this course is especially based upon the following two propositions: *that it is necessary to understand revolution in order to understand the modern world*, and that *we can make some sense of the world by comparing revolutions over time and over space*. A task for the class will be to ask what lessons or patterns of understanding the European revolutions offer us today.

## Revolution

This seminar examines the origins, progress and patterns of European Revolutions from 1789 through 1989/91. The French Revolution of 1789-1794 is the “Great” Revolution, the one you may be familiar with from college course work and from literary interpretations like Charles Dickens’ *Tale of Two Cities*. The Russian Revolution of 1917 is a little more than one hundred years in the past, its direct impact only recently fading through the end of the Cold War. Many assessments of Western and world history consider the French Revolution of 1789 as signifying the start of the modern era and the Russian Revolution of 1917 as one of the defining events of the twentieth century. One of our tasks this semester will be to understand the logic of these arguments. The other Revolutions we will consider across Europe and Russia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries may be less known to you. Nonetheless, they too are important for observers and scholars – in the past and today – trying to make sense of economic, political and cultural developments in the modern world. As you will discover in our readings, all of these revolutions have been taken up as models, paradigms, microcosms or “scripts” for modernity. At the same time, the politicization that has often accompanied the analysis of revolution calls for an informed skepticism toward the material you will read.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to Graduate Studies.

## Goals of the Course

One goal of our class is to acquire an understanding of the pattern of European Revolutions from 1789 through 1991 by using **primary** and **secondary resources** available especially through Rice Library. A second goal is to demonstrate this understanding by completing a **research paper**. A third goal is to approach the material in an **interdisciplinary** way; accordingly, we will become familiar with interpretations from History, Sociology, Political Science and Film Studies.

## Course Structure

This is an online course offered through Blackboard and Zoom. There is a Blackboard website for the class where I will place copies of the syllabus, handouts, assignments and links to readings. You should become familiar with Blackboard and check the website at least once a week for announcements and new postings. Students will participate in online discussions using Zoom. The Zoom meetings will happen twice a week at a scheduled time (TBA). This is a graduate course designed to introduce the topic and provide guidance in producing a substantial research paper. Much of this course revolves around assigned readings and discussion of assigned readings; it is therefore important that you keep up with assignments as they are made. The syllabus and course schedule are subject to change with notice given to the class.

## Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate graduate level research techniques to identify key resources
2. Synthesize and analyze scholarly sources to create a valid, complex historical interpretation.
3. Place events into the context of their own time through a nuanced analysis of social/cultural trends.
4. Use appropriate methodology and professional languages when speaking and writing.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate:

- Advanced research skills by locating extensive and appropriate quality sources
- Sophisticated historical analysis using historical theory and methodology
- Critical thinking and analytical and interpretive skills by expressing complex and detailed historical insights

- Cultural, data and technology literacy appropriate for the graduate level
- Writing and speaking ability about history at a professional level

## Course Readings

We will use an interdisciplinary selection of readings. The titles listed below are available through the USI Bookstore. Most may also be purchased through online booksellers:

- Brooks, Jeffrey and Georgy Chernyavskiy, eds. *Lenin and the Making of the Soviet State*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. ISBN: 9780312412661. **Available free online through the Rice Library databases.**
- Doyle, William. *The French Revolution : A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-191540271. **Available free online through the Rice Library databases.**
- Gould, Roger. *Insurgent Identities: Class, Community and Protest in Paris from 1848 to the Commune*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. ISBN: 978-0226305615 (estimated new book price: \$35.00)
- Marx, Karl. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Hamburg, 1885. **Available free online through the Rice Library databases.**
- Smith, S.A. *The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN: 978-0192853950. (estimated new book price: \$15.00)
- Tilly, Charles. *European Revolutions, 1492 -1992*. Cambridge, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 1996. ISBN: 978-0631199038 (estimated new book price: \$45.00)

Other readings available electronically through Rice Library databases

## Assessments

**Short Presentation:** Of approximately fifteen minutes by each student on assigned readings.

**Prospectus:** Near mid-term, a presentation in writing and with an in-class report of your research paper topic and the sources you will use.

**Paper Presentation:** In-class report on the penultimate draft of the final paper.

**Final Paper:** Due at the end of the semester; a detailed description of the requirements for the final paper will be distributed near the start of the semester.

**Participation:** This is necessary, as your comments for the in-class presentations will be helpful for fellow students. Drafts of each final paper will be distributed in advance so that everyone will have a chance to comment.

### GRADING

**Short Presentation:** 10 percent  
**Paper Presentation:** 10 percent

**Prospectus:** 10 percent  
**Participation:** 20 percent

**Final Research Paper:** 50 percent

**The following grading standards apply to graduate work:** A Excellent, B+ Above Average, B Average, C+ Below Average, C Below Average – minimal passing grade for graduate credit – and F for Failure. Note: A grade below C is considered failing; students must maintain an overall 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing in Graduate Studies.

**Late Penalty and Make-ups:** *One-half grade off* for each day late for the prospectus and final paper. *Presentations cannot be re-scheduled or made up.*

## Minimum Technical Skills

In addition to typing skills, you will need to know how to do the following:

- Navigate Blackboard and use the various functions such as submitting a written assignment, sending email, checking grades in My Grades, opening Word documents, PDFs, and contributing to Journals.
- Watch and submit assignments on Voice Thread presentations.
- Use the basic functions in Microsoft Word, including paragraph formatting, inserting references, spelling and grammar check.
- Use cloud storage (e.g. Google docs) to save your work.

There are instructional videos for all these technologies on Blackboard.

## Minimum Digital Information Literacy Skills

You will need to know how to do the following:

- Locate the Rice Library online databases
- Assess the credibility and reliability of sources
- Use sources appropriately:
  - Your work reflects the source’s original meaning
  - Your work gives credit to the person or organization that created them
  - Your work cites sources using correct *Chicago Manual of Style* citation.

## Technical Requirements

- **A Reliable Computer:** a dedicated computer with an updated operating system, such as Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX.
- **Internet Connection:** (e.g. DSL or Cable). A wired Internet connection is recommended for research and assignment submission.
- [Office 365](#) (USI login needed) & [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) installed.
- **Supported Web Browser:** [Firefox](#), [Google Chrome](#), or [Safari](#).

## Communication Guidelines

- **Professional Interaction Expectations**  
Everyone in this course (both students and professor) is expected be professional in all personal interactions. Be respectful of other people’s time, so be clear and concise. Be careful when sharing personal information about yourself or others, and never share confidential information publicly. Focus on facts and evidence, and avoid using language that could be considered a personal attack or insult. In emails, include an appropriate subject line, write in full sentences, avoid abbreviation, “text speak” or all caps, and use correct spelling and grammar.
- **Communications Expectations**
  - Check Blackboard frequently for class announcements. Send me an email for questions or issues related to the course – I am available through email 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday and will normally respond within an hour or so. If you do not hear back from me, send a follow-up email.
  - Whenever you complete graded work, expect me to evaluate it within seven days. Grades will be posted on the MyGrades link of Blackboard.

- My office hours are online, so you can contact me using Zoom; you may also contact me by phone (812-319-8300) and/or by email (charison@usi.edu).

## Course & University Policies

### Late Assignment Policy

As graduate students, your work is expected to be submitted on time. If you think that you will miss a deadline, you must contact me immediately to discuss your options. Unless the student and professor have agreed that the student will receive an “incomplete” and extra time to finish the final project, **no work will be accepted after May 6, 2022, the last day of the semester.**

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the hallmark of truth and honesty in an engaged university community. Students have the right and responsibility to pursue their educational goals with academic integrity. All members of the university are accountable for their actions in maintaining high standards of academic integrity. Students are responsible for completing academic requirements without action and/or material that violate academic integrity. Please view the [Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures](#). **This course has a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty.** Academic dishonesty is a reprehensible and grievous offense to the learning process and educational environment of all students. For historians, personal integrity in our work is of paramount importance. Any student found guilty of dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism and/or cheating on an examination will be subject to disciplinary action.

- The first instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for that assignment; it will be reported to the Dean of Students and entered into the university’s Maxient system. Students will have the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment to replace the first one.
- A second instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the class and will be reported to the Dean of Students and entered into the university’s Maxient system. No exceptions.

### Class Withdrawal & Incomplete Policy

It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop/withdraw from any courses before the deadline. For Spring 2022, a student who withdraws from the course on or before Friday March 18, 2022 will have a “W” recorded on their transcripts. **Students who withdraw after Friday March 18, 2022 will have a “W” recorded only if they are passing the course at the time of withdrawal (C or above); students who are failing at the time of withdrawal will receive an F.** The university does not withdraw students from any classes. Please refer to the USI Academic Calendar (<https://www.usi.edu/registrar/academic-calendar>) for specific dates. For more information, please visit [Registrar’s Office Schedule Changes](#)

Under special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. However, it is up to the course instructor to decide if an incomplete will be granted. Students receiving an incomplete grade will need to complete all course requirements by the agreed deadline to avoid an “F” grade.

### Policy on Sexual Misconduct

USI does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, you may seek help by contacting USI’s Title IX Coordinator, Carrie Lynn, at 812-464-1703 or at [cnlynn@usi.edu](mailto:cnlynn@usi.edu). It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report incidences of potential sexual misconduct known to them to the Title IX Coordinator. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those who need to know to ensure we can

respond and assist. If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with a counselor in the University Counseling Center by calling 812-464-1867. Find more information about [sexual assault prevention and response](#), including campus and community resources.

### **Disability Statement**

If you have a disability for which you may require academic accommodations for this class, please contact Disability Resources at 812-464-1961 or email Disability Communications at [usi1disres@usi.edu](mailto:usi1disres@usi.edu) as soon as possible. Students who are approved for accommodations by Disability Resources should request their accommodation letter be emailed to them to forward to their online instructors. Due to the nature of online courses some accommodations approved for on campus courses may not apply. Please discuss this with Disability Resources to clarify as needed. Students who receive an accommodation letter from Disability Resources are encouraged to discuss the provisions of those accommodations with their professors before or during the first week of the semester. If you will be in an internship, field, clinical, student teaching, or other off-campus setting this semester please note that approved academic accommodations may not apply. Please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible to discuss accommodations needed for access while in this setting. For more information, please visit the [Disability Resources](#) website.

### **Academic Continuity**

In the event of an announced campus closure or emergency, it may be necessary for the university to suspend normal operations. During this time, the university may opt to continue instruction through online or alternative modes of delivery. Each student is responsible to monitor the USI homepage at [www.USI.edu](http://www.USI.edu) and their USI email for important general information and instructions regarding classes. Please also view the guidance on [emergency procedures](#) and information.

### **Civility and Inclusion**

The university is dedicated to a culture of civility among students, faculty, and staff. The university embraces and celebrates the many differences that exist among the members of a dynamic, intellectual and inclusive community, and strives to maintain an environment that respects differences and provides a sense of belonging and inclusion for everyone. Any form of unlawful discrimination will not be tolerated. Each student has the right to be free from discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. If you have experienced discrimination, or know someone who has, you may seek help by contacting USI's Civil Rights Coordinator, Carrie Lynn, at 812-464-1703 or at [cnlynn@usi.edu](mailto:cnlynn@usi.edu). Find more information in the [Student Rights and Responsibilities: Code of Student Behavior](#) and [Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination policy](#).

## **Technical Support**

### **Help Desk Support**

Since your professors are not trained as technology experts, they will not be able to assist you with your technical needs. If you have any issues with Blackboard, Zoom or any other technology, please contact the [Help Desk](#) at (812) 465-1080 or send an email to [it@usi.edu](mailto:it@usi.edu). To learn more about the USI helpdesk, please visit [USI IT Help Desk](#)

### **Additional Training Documentation**

- [Blackboard](#)
- [Zoom](#)

### **Privacy Policies & Accessibility Statements**

For detailed information about the privacy policies and accessibility statements of the course technologies, please visit [USI Online Learning Support Services](#)

## **Academic Support Services**

### **Academic Skills**

<http://www.usi.edu/university-division/academic-skills/tutoring/>

This office offers tutoring and learning assistance to help you develop skills to succeed in your academic life. To contact them, please call 812/464-1743 or go to the website above to find the latest tutoring schedule. In addition to tutoring in math and other content areas in Academic Skills, please note that the Writers' Room (ED 1102) provides writing assistance in person and online. To use this service, please contact their office by calling 812/461-5359 or visit their website at <http://www.usi.edu/university-division/academic-skills/tutoring/writers-room>

### **How to Cite Sources (Chicago)**

Chicago Manual of Style Online Quick Guide (Notes and Bibliography Format):

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

### **Online Learning Library Services**

<https://usi.libguides.com/onlinelearning>

### **Research Guides**

Research assistance, subject guides, and useful resources compiled by your friendly librarians.

<http://usi.libguides.com/>

### **Disability, and ADA Support**

<http://www.usi.edu/university-division/disabilities>

### **Student Grievances**

<https://www.usi.edu/media/3402299/Grievance-and-Complaints-Procedures.pdf>

## **Student Support Resources**

The university provides a comprehensive range of support services and activities for students.

Please refer to <http://www.usi.edu/students/> for detailed information regarding academic advising, registration, financial aid, student affairs, counseling, career services, etc.

- **University Health Center**-The University Health Center is a full-service clinic offering medical services and health-related information to students, faculty, and staff. It is located in the lower level of the Health Professions Center and is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Click on this link to learn more about the [Health Services](#) offered at USI, or to make an appointment, please call 812/465-1250.
- **University Counseling Center**: The Counseling Center is open every Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. You'll find the Counseling Center in the Orr Center, Room 1051; their phone number is 812/464-1867 <http://www.usi.edu/counselingcenter/>

- **Financial Aid Office-** Information about current or future financial aid (including the implications of withdrawal from courses) can be obtained from the University Financial Aid Office. The office open is every Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm; phone 812/464-1767, or email them at [finaid@usi.edu](mailto:finaid@usi.edu)
- **Student Basic Needs**  
Students who have difficulty affording food on a regular basis or lack a safe place to live and believe this may affect their class performance are encouraged to contact the [Dean of Students Office](#). A list of resources can also be found at [www.usi.edu/media/5612733/financial-wellness-resources.pdf](http://www.usi.edu/media/5612733/financial-wellness-resources.pdf).