This course is designed to discuss different forms of political change from theoretical and historical-comparative perspective.

In the first part of the semester we examine general evolutionary forms of social change i.e. theories of modernization and development, which might precede political restructuration. Old and new modernization studies will be contrasted to old and new approaches in development, underdevelopment and dependency.

In the second part, we shall discuss revolutions in theoretical, historical, and comparative perspective. Comparative politics includes relational analysis of abrupt, violent, unexpected changes in the political structure of a society. We will discuss the major understandings and theories of the state in order to help conceptualizing revolution. Constitutionalist, Marxist, psychological, and functionalist approaches, just as mobilization, structuralist, and political culture theories of revolution will be analysed. When approaching political violence, notions such as palace revolution, coup, theories of internal and international war will also be discussed. The course will allow to focus on some case studies as well. We will use the opportunity of student presentations to discuss some empirical cases of revolutions or revolutionary movements.

Finally, in the third part of the semester, we shall cover non-violent forms of political change, and their social consequences. Transition and consolidation approaches will be critically discussed, together with the ideas of democracy promotion, processes of deconsolidation and the rise of hybrid regimes. The course concludes with discussions on civil resistance and disobedience with special attention of the domestic authoritarian and global, transnational contexts.

**Learning outcome:** Students will be able to distinguish between different forms of social change and political dynamics by familiarizing themselves both the theoretical and practical (i.e. policy) aspects of political change. They will be able to analyze political events of change in comparative and historical perspective.

**Grading** will be based on

- participation, activity, oral presentations (30%);
- periodic assignments, including an in-class test (30%);
- a final essay of minimum 12, maximum 14 pages (double-spaced) on a topic agreed upon with the professor. The paper should be handed in a print-out form by the last class (40%).
Topics and readings

**WEEK 1. January 8, 10. Social Change: Classic Theories of Modernization and Development**

**Mandatory readings**


**Further readings**


Klaus Müller (1992), “‘Modernising’ Eastern Europe: Theoretical Problems and Political


Mandatory readings


Further readings


Immanuel Wallerstein (1979), The Capitalist World Economy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Peter F. Klarén & Thomas J. Bossert, eds., (1986), Promise of Development: Theories of
Change in Latin America. Boulder: Westview
David E. Apter (1987), Rethinking Development: Modernization, Dependency, and
Postmodern Politics. London: Sage
Alvin Y. So (1990), Social Change and Development. London: Sage
Jeffrey C. Alexander & Piotr Sztompka eds. (1990), Rethinking Progress: Movements,
Forces, and Ideas at the End of the 20th Century. Boston: Unwin Hyman
Tony Spybey (1992), Social Change, Development, and Dependency. Cambridge: Polity
Press
Vicky Randall & Robin Theobald (1998), Political Change and Underdevelopment. Durham:
J. Timmons Roberts & Amy Hite, eds. (2000), From Modernization to Globalization:
Perspectives on Development and Social Change. Oxford: Blackwell


Mandatory readings


Gustave Le Bon (1971), „The Psychology of Revolutions” in Paynton & Blackey eds. (1971),


Karl Griewank (1971), „Emergence of the Concept of Revolution” in C. Paynton and R.


Further readings

Alexis de Tocqueville (1955 [1856]), The Old Regime and the Revolution. New York:
Anchor Press - Doubleday
Andrew C. Janos (1964), „Authority and Violence: The Political Framework of Internal War”
Harry Eckstein (1971 [1964]), „On the Etiology of Internal Wars” in C. Paynton, R. Blackey,
ed., Why Revolution? Theories and Analyses Cambridge, MA: Schenkman, 
124-150.

Mandatory readings


Further readings


WEEK 5. February 5, 7. Theories of Revolution III. Comparative-Historical-Structural versus Agency-based Explanations

Mandatory readings

Theda Skocpol (1979), States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3-43.


Further readings


WEEK 6. February 12. Recent Debates on Revolution
February 14. Midterm exam

Mandatory readings


Further readings


WEEK 7. February 19, 21. Theories of Transition I.

Mandatory readings

Dankwart Rustow (1970), „Transitions to Democracy” Comparative Politics. April, 337-363.


Further readings


Juan J. Linz (1990), „Transitions to Democracy” Washington Quarterly. Summer, 143-164.

Larry Diamond (1990), „Beyond Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism: Strategies for


Samuel P. Huntington (1991), The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century. Norman: Oklahoma University Press 


WEEK 8. February 26, 28. Theories of Transition II. 

Mandatory readings 


Further readings 


Josep M. Colomer (2000), Strategic Transitions: Game Theory and Democratization, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press


WEEK 9. March 5, 7. Democratic Consolidation

Mandatory readings


Further readings


WEEK 10. March 12, 14. Deconsolidation, De-democratization, and Competitive Authoritarianism

Mandatory reading


**Further readings**


**WEEK II.** March 19, 21. **Civil Resistance in the International and Transnational Context**

**Mandatory readings**


Valerie J. Bunce & Sharon L. Wolchik (2011), „Defeating a Dictator at the Polls and in the


**Further readings**

Gene Sharp (1973), The Politics of Nonviolent Action. Boston: P. Sargent Publisher


Mandatory readings


Further readings


