



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI
FIRST SEMESTER 2023/2024 SESSION.**

**POL 411: REVOLUTION AND SOCIETY
2CR**

Course Instructors:

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Course Description

The course examines the phenomenon of a revolution and its impact on society. It explores the historical and theoretical dimensions of revolutions analyzing their causes, dynamics, consequences, and effects on various aspects of society. The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from political science, sociology, history, and other relevant fields. The course will examine and expose the students to a comprehensive understanding of revolutions and their significance in shaping societies through case studies, theoretical readings, and critical analysis.

Course Objectives

The major objectives of this course are:

1. To enable the students to understand human societies' nature, character, and dynamics.
1. To help students to critically evaluate different theoretical approaches to understanding Revolutions.
2. To enable the students to understand the role of revolutionary ideologies, leaders, and mass mobilization.
3. To enable the students to assess revolutions' impact on state power, political structures, economy, and governance.
4. To enable the students to apply theoretical frameworks and historical knowledge to analyze specific case studies of revolutions.
5. To enable the students, to engage in critical thinking and develop analytical skills through reading, discussions, and written assignments.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students are expected to be conversant with the following;

1. The nature, character, and dynamics of human societies.
2. Have critical knowledge of the causes, nature, and effect of revolution on human societies
3. Have sound understanding of ideals, personalities, and events that have caused and shaped revolutions.
4. Develop critical thinking towards analyses of societal events particularly on issues of inequality, deprivation, mass mobilization, and revolt.

Grading Method

75% class Attendance 5%
Class Test/Assignments 15%
Class Participation 20%
End of Semester Examination 60%
Total 100 %

Course Contents

Module One: Introduction to Societal Studies

- What is a society?
- Theoretical description of a society
- Nature and historical evolution of a society
- Types of societies.
- Dynamics of human societies

Module Two: Introduction to Revolution

- Definition and characteristics of a Revolution
- Evolution of revolution as a concept
- Theoretical approaches to studying revolution
- Types and Characteristics of Revolution

Module Three: Classical and Contemporary Theories of Revolution

- **Classical Theories**
- Marx and Frederick Engels
- Aristotle
- Machiavelli
- Alexis de Tocqueville
- Samuel Huntington
- Charles Tilly
- **Contemporary Theories**
- Jack Goldstone
- Theda Skocpol
- Eric Wolf
- Summarizing the First to Third Generations of Revolutionary Theories

Module Four: Causes of Revolution

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Psychological
- Inequality, and oppression
- Globalization and technology

Module Five: Dynamics of Revolution

- The stages and processes of revolution
- Revolution and Social Mobilization
- Revolutionary leaders and their strategies
- Revolution and popular participation

Module Six: Revolution and State Power

- The overthrow of existing regimes
- Emergence of new political structures and systems
- Revolutionary governments and their challenges
- The consolidation or failure of revolutionary movements

Module Five: Revolution and Social Change

- Socioeconomic transformations during and after revolutions
- Impact on class structures, social hierarchies, and inequalities
- Gender dynamics and women's participation in revolutions
- Cultural and ideological changes brought about by revolutions

Reading Reference

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