COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The comparative historical analysis of revolutions and civil wars calls for interdisciplinary dialogue between sociology, political science, and history. Revolutions and civil wars bring radical changes in social structures as well as in states’ functions and political structures that must be studied both internally and internationally. After an introductory overview of the main interpretative frameworks offered by sociology, political science and historiography, the course will turn its focus to a critical review of the most recent socio-historical research and debates concerning revolutions, civil wars and counter-revolutions in the Twentieth Century, with special emphasis on the Peasant Revolutions, the Russian Revolution, Fascism and the Spanish Civil War and the later episodes of war and politics of extermination in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The course also focusses on violence, with special emphasis on paramilitarism, sexual violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Students will be encouraged to develop comparisons with other time periods and other regions of the world.

Readings:
A huge body of literature exists on the large and important themes that we shall pursue in the course.

The following books are specially recommended:
ARMITAGE, David, Civil Wars. A History in Ideas, Yale University Press, 2017


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The course is organised into lectures and seminars. Typically the first meeting of the week is a lecture, while the second is a seminar. Regular participation in discussions
is necessary and expected. During the seminars students are expected to reflect critically on the mandatory readings and to engage in discussions. Questions and stimulating interaction during the lectures will be positively evaluated as well.

The items marked with an asterisk (*) under each week topic are mandatory. Each student will have to take part in one 25 minutes presentation in a group of 2, in the seminars, depending on the number of participants in the course. A general class discussion will follow.

Grade relevant features of the presentation will be: adequate representation of the literature processed and critical, innovative and stimulating thought. I will assist you with identifying core readings for the presentations.

There will be a final historiographic essay (ca. 7-page) to compare and evaluate the viewpoints of three authors on the same subject. The students should be able to elaborate a thesis/argument and support it with evidence taken from the texts. Please note that class attendance is required.

**GRADING:**

The final paper will weigh 50 percent of the grade. The remaining 50 percent will be assigned for presentations (30 percent) and participation in discussions (20 percent).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THEIR ASSESSMENT**

The overall grade will primarily indicate the ability of the students to comprehend the ways revolutions and civil wars bring radical changes in social structures as well as in states’ functions and political structures that must be studied both internally and internationally. The learning outcomes of the master program are supported and measured by the present course in the following ways: The ability to deploy effective oral presentation and discussion skills is assessed through the seminars. The skills to analyze historical events and evaluate them in a comparative perspective are reflected by the final paper. The discussions and final paper will also measure the ability of students to elaborate a critical review of the most recent socio-historical research and debates concerning revolutions and civil wars in the Twentieth Century.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

**Session 1:** Course description, content and works of relevance to the course

**Session 2:** History and Social Sciences
Part I: Theories

Week 2: Revolution: Theories and History. From Barrington Moore to Theda Skocpol: The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions

Readings:
- DEFRONZO, James, “Social Movements and Revolutions”, in Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements, pp. 9-37
- ZAGORIN, Perez, “Theories of Revolution in Contemporary Historiography”, Political Science Quarterly, LXXXVIII, 1(March 1973), pp. 23-52

Session 2: Seminar (Discussion):

- *SKOCPOL, Theda, “Introduction” and “Conclusion”, in Social Revolutions in the Modern World, pp. 3-22 and 301-344

Week 3: Civil Wars. War and Revolution

Readings:


HOLSTI, Kalevi J., The state, war, and the state of war, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1996, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-40)

KALYVAS, Stathis N., “Concepts”, in The Logic of Violence in Civil Wars, pp. 16-31


MCMILLAN, James, “War”, in BLOXHAM, Donald and GERWARTH, Robert (ed), Political Violence in Twentieth-Century Europe, pp. 40-86


Session 2: Seminar (Discussion)


Part II: History (Case Studies)

Week 4: Peasant Revolutions: From México to Cuba

Readings:


**Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)**

**Week 5: War, Revolution and the Rise of Communism**

**Readings:**
- DEFRONZO, James, “The Russian Revolutions and Eastern Europe”, in *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*, pp. 39-93

**Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)**

**Week 6: Civil War in Europe, 1914-1945. Civil War and Revolution in Spain 1936-1939**
Readings:
---“Empires, Nations, Minorities”, in Dark Continent, pp. 40-76.

Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)
---*CASANOVA, Julian, ”Holy War and Anticlerical Hatred”, in A Short History of the Spanish Civil War, pp. 44-80
*-GERWARTH, Robert, “The Central European Counter-revolution: Paramilitary Violence in Germany, Austria and Hungary after the Great War”, Past and Present, n. 200 (August 2008), pp. 175-209

Week 7: Fascism and Paramilitarism: Revolution or Counterrevolution? A comparative perspective
Readings:
-BOSWORTH, R.J.B., Mussolini, Oxford University Press, Nueva York, 2002
-DE GRAND, Alexander J, Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. The 'Fascist' Style of Rule, Routledge, 1995.


**Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)**


**Week 8: Postwar. Europe in the Aftermath of World War II.**

**Readings**


**Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)**


Week 9:
Session 1: The Revolutions of 1989: Seminar (Presentations)


Session 2: War in Bosnia 1992-1995: Seminar (Presentations)


-IACOBELLI, Teresa, “The ‘Sum of Such Actions’. Investigating Mass Rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina through a Case Study of Foca”, in Darmag Herzog (ed), Brutality and Desire, pp. 261-283.


Week 10: Ethnic Cleansing, Genocide and Sexual Violence
Readings:


-BÖHLER, Jochen; BORODZIEJ, Vlodziemir; and VON PUTTKAMER, Joachim, Legacies of Violence. Eastern Europe’s First World War, Oldenbourg Verlag, Munich, 2014.


Session 2: Seminar (Presentations)


Week 11: Fractured Past, Divided Present: History and Memory

Readings:


Session 2: Wars, Nations and Political Violence in Twentieth-Century Europe
(Discussion):

Readings:


Week 12: Final Paper Due