

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

**School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS491**

**Special Topics in International Relations
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NONE**

Table of Contents

Instructor Information	Evaluation Procedures
Course Description	Grading Scale
Course Scope	Course Outline
Course Objectives	Policies
Course Delivery Method	Online Library
Course Resources	Selected Bibliography

Instructor Information

Instructor: [insert name with credentials]

Biography: [insert APUS biography link]

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

After the class is over, instructor contact information: [insert mycampus address]

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Description (Catalog)

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IRLS491 Special Topics in International Relations (3 hours)

This course examines the origins and outcomes of modern revolutions in France, Mexico, Russia and China. The course compares and contrasts revolutions in order to gain insight into the role of ideology, charismatic leaders, purges and counter-revolutionary movements. Additionally, these five cases are then compared to more recent revolutionary or near-revolutionary events in Cuba, Southeast Asia, Iran, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Venezuela. The course includes readings, assignments and discussions. Small groups of students also deconstruct propaganda posters from revolutionary Russia and China, analyzing how these regimes attempted to depict industrialization, agriculture, gender, national ethnic groups and the position of their respective revolutions in the world.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Scope

As a 400-level course, this course provides a higher level of knowledge building on the material taught at the 300 level. The purpose and scope of this course is to enable the student to build a deeper understanding of the discipline.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1 Explain how the success and failure of the Chinese Revolution depended upon the mass mobilization of peasants and the combination of traditional and modern strategies.

CO-2 Examine the case of Iran in 1979 and the recent Arab Spring to identify relevant theories and concepts that are applicable to these events.

CO-3 Analyze the relationship of a revolutionary movement to the state, and to civil society.

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CO-4 Distinguish the theoretical differences between Alexis de Tocqueville, Karl Marx and Max Weber.

CO-5 Evaluate competing analyses of modernization in the field of political science and sociology.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Resources

- Required Course Textbook
The **required** text for this course is:
No required textbook.
- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

[Table of Contents](#)

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 25 percent

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Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Midterm assignment - 25 percent

A 5 page comparative analysis of the Russian and Chinese Revolutions.

Progress assignment - 15 percent

A 3 page paper on the Mexican Revolution.

Final assignment – 35 percent

An 8 page paper. Please see assignment folder for details.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	25
Midterm Assignment	25
Progress Assignment	15
Final Assignment	35
Total	100

[Table of Contents](#)

8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
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1	Classic Approaches to the Study of Revolution	CO-4: Distinguish the theoretical differences between Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Alexis de Tocqueville and Max Weber.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion
2	The Debate on Modernization	CO-5: Evaluate competing analyses of modernization in the field of political science and sociology.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion Progress Assignment
3	The Russian Revolution	CO-3: Analyze the relationship of a revolutionary movement to the state, and to civil society.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion
4	Comparative and Historical Studies	CO-1: Explain how the success and failure of the Chinese Revolution depended upon the mass mobilization of peasants and	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion

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		the combination of traditional and modern strategies.		
5	The Outcomes of Revolution	CO-3 Analyze the relationship of a revolutionary movement to the state, and to civil society.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion Midterm Assignment
6	Families, Women and Minorities	CO-5 Evaluate competing analyses of modernization in the field of political science and sociology.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion
7	Contemporary Revolutions	CO-2 Examine the case of Iran in 1979 and the recent Arab Spring to identify relevant theories and concepts that are applicable to these events.	All Readings in Lessons	Forum Discussion
8	Concluding Observations	CO-3 Analyze the relationship of a revolutionary	No Readings	Forum Discussion Final Assignment

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		movement to the state, and to civil society.		
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[Table of Contents](#)

Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), J

[Table of Contents](#)

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- ***Electronic Books:*** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

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- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course

(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOC1111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

[Table of Contents](#)

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[Table of Contents](#)