

History 78110-MES 73900
 Professor: Ervand Abrahamian
 Wednesdays: 6.30-8.30 pm.
 Office: 5/405

The Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective
 Fall 2015
 Office Hours: Wednesdays: 5.30-6.30.
 E-mail: Ervand.Abrahamian@Baruch.Cuny.Edu

The course will explore the various theoretical approaches used to explain the 1979 revolution in Iran. The main approaches to be explored will be the Structural, Cultural, Weberian-Durkheimian, Feminist, Behavioral, Intellectual, Discourse, Mobilization (Tillian), and Marxist.

Requirements:

1. Seminar Participation.
2. A ten-minute presentation of 7-page report on any of the * books.
3. For MA students: Twenty-page (5000 word) in-depth study of any **one** of the major approaches. The paper should use the works in the recommended list.
 For PhD students: Forty-page paper comparing any **three** major approaches. Papers due on the very last day of class.

Required Books:

1. Michael Fischer, Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution (Harvard)*.
2. Ali Gheissari, Iranian Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century (Texas)*.
3. Charles Kurzman, The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran (Harvard)*.
4. Misagh Parsa, Social Origins of the Iranian Revolution (Rutgers Paper)*.

Required Articles (obtained through JSTOR via library internet):

1. Lawrence Stone, "Theories of Revolution." World Politics, XVIII, (Jan.1966).
2. James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review Vol. 27, No. 1 (February 1962).
3. Nikki Keddie, "Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective," American Historical Review, Vol. 88, No. 3 (June 1983), 579-98.
4. Abrahamian, "The Crowd in the Iranian Revolution," Radical History Review, No. 105 (Summer 2009), 13-34.
5. Said Arjomand, "Iran's Islamic Revolution in Comparative Perspective," World Politics, Vol. 30 (Spring 1986), 383-414.
6. Shaul Bakhash, "Iran" (Historiographical Review), American Historical Review, Vol. 96, No. 5 (December 1991), 1479-96.
7. Teda Skocpol, "Rentier State and Shi'a Islam in the Iranian Revolution," Theory and Society, Vol II, No. 3, (May 1982).
8. Moadell, "Ideology as Episodic Discourse: The Case of the Iranian Revolution," American Sociological Review, Vol. 57 (June 1992), 353-79.
9. Kamran Talatoff, "Iranian Women's Literature....," International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 29 (1997), 531-558.

Recommended Reading for General Introduction:

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies.
 Crane Brinton, The Anatomy of Revolution.
 Bailey Stone, The Anatomy of Revolution Revisited (Cambridge Paperback).

Course Outline

Week

- 1 Introduction to the Course: Definition of Revolution; Significance of the Iranian Revolution; Outline of the Iranian Revolution; Simplistic Explanations.

- 2 Approaches to the Study of Revolution
 Lawrence Stone, "Theories of Revolution," World Politics, XVIII (1966).
 Nikki Keddie, "The Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective,"
American Historical Review, Vol. 88, No. 3 (June 1983), pp. 579-98
 Shaul Bakhash, "Iran" (Historiographical Review), American Historical Review Vol. 96, No. 5 (December 1991), 1479-96.

 For a narrative recommended:
 Abrahamian, "The Crowd in the Iranian Revolution," Radical History Review, No. 105 (Summer 2009).
 Shaul Bakhash, The Reign of the Ayatollahs (Basic Books)*.
 Kapuscinski, Shah of Shahs.

- 3 Structural Explanations
 Skocpol, "Rentier State and Shi'a Islam in the Iran Revolution," Theory and Society, Vol. II, No. 3 (May 1982), pp. 265-92 and following pages with discussions on Skocpol.
 Andrew Cooper, "Showdown at Doha: The Secrey Oil Deal that Helped Sink the Shah of Iran," Middle East Journal, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Autumn 2008).
 Recommended: Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions (Cambridge Paperback)

- 4 Cultural Explanation
 Michael Fischer, Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution (Harvard)*
 Recommended: Roy Mottahedeh, Mantle of the Prophet.*

- 5 Weberian Approach
 Said Arjomand, "Iran's Islamic Revolution in Comparative Perspective," Comparative Politics, Vol. 30 (Spring 1986).
 W. Floor, "Revolutionary Character of the Iranian Ulama: Wishful Thinking or Reality," International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 12, No. 4 (December 1980).
 Behrooz Moazemi, "Rethinking the Role of Religion in Iran..." Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Vol. 31, No. (2011).
 Recommended: Said Arjomand, The Turban for the Crown (Oxford Paper).*
 Shahrough Akhavi, Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran (Suny Paper).*

- 6 Durkheimian Approach
 Reza Sheiholeslami, "Class, State and Revolution" (article to be distributed in Class).

- 7 Feminist Approach
 Kamran Talattof, "Iranian Women's Literature From Pre-Revolution," IJMES, Vol. 29 (1997), pp. 531-58.
 Recommended: Janet Afary and Kevin Anderson, Foucault and the Iranian Revolution (Chicago).
 Afary, Sexual Politics in Modern Iran (Cambridge Paper).*
 Parvin Paidar, Women and the Political Process in Twentieth-Century Iran.*
 Shahidian, "The Iranian Left and the Women's Question," International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 26, No. 2 (May 1994).
- 8 Intellectual Approach
 Ali Gheissari, Iranian Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century.*
 Recommended: Hamid Dabashi, Theology of Discontent.*
 Nabavi, Intellectuals and the State in Iran
 Ali Mirsepassi, Intellectual Discourse and the Politics of Modernization in Iran*
 Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Iranian Intellectuals and the West. *
- 9 Discourse Approach
 Mansour Moadell, "Ideology as Episodic Discourse," American Sociological Review, Vol. 57 (June 1992), 353-79
 Recommended: Moadell, Class, Politics, and Ideology in the Iranian Revolution*
- 10 Behavioral Explanation
 Charles Kurzman, The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran (Harvard).*
 James Davies, "Toward a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, Vol. 27, No. 1 (February 1962), pp. 5-19.
- 11 Collective Action Approach
 Misagh Parsa, Social Origins of the Iranian Revolution (Rutgers Paper).*
 Recommended: Parsa, States, Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Iran Nicaragua and the Philippines
- 12 "Great Men" Approach
 Weber, "Charisma," (paper to be distributed in class).
 Marvin Zonis, Majestic Failure (Chicago)*
 Recommended: Abbas Milani, The Shah*
 Afkhami, Life and Times of the Shah.*
 Moin, Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah.*
- 13 Cyclic Approach
 Katouzian, "Arbitrary Rule," (article to be distributed in class)
- 14 Neo-Marxist Approach
 Abrahamian, The Iranian Mojahedin

Additional Works on the Iranian Revolution in English

- Abrahamian, E., Iran Between Two Revolutions.
 -----, Khomeinism.
 -----, Tortured Confessions.
 -----, The Iranian Mujahedin.
 Amuzegar, J. The Dynamics of the Iranian Revolution
 Ashraf, A. "Bazaar-Mosque Alliance: The Social Basis of Revolts and Revolutions,
International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Summer
 1988), 538-67.
 -----and Banuazizi, A., "The State, Classes and Modes of Mobilization in the
 Iranian Revolution," State, Culture and Society, Vol 1, No. 3 (Spring 1985),
 3-40.
 -----, "Charisma, Theocracy, and Men of Power," in The Politics of Social
 Transformation in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (Edited by M. Weiner &
 A. Banuazizi), 501-51.
 Bashiriyeh, H., The State and Revolution in Iran.
 Bayat, A. Workers and Revolution in Iran.
 Chehabi, H. Iranian Politics and Religious Modernism.
 Enayat, H. Modern Islamic Political Thought
 Esposito, J. The Iranian Revolution: Its Global Impact.
 Foran, J. (Edit), A Century of Revolution: Social Movements in Iran.
 Graham, R. Iran: The Illusion of Power.
 Green, J. Revolution in Iran: The Politics of Countermobilization.*
 Hooglund, E. Twenty Years of Islamic Revolution.
 Keddie, Nikki. Roots of Revolution.
 Keddie, Nikki and Hooglund, Eric (Editors). The Iranian Revolution and the Islamic
 Republic.
 Khalilzad, Z., The Government of God: Iran's Islamic Republic
 Katouzian, H., The Political Economy of Modern Iran.
 Ledeen, M. Debacle: The American Failure in Iran
 Lenczowski, G. (Ed). Iran Under the Pahlavis
 McDaniel, T., Autocracy, Modernization and Revolution in Russia and Iran.*
 Milani, M., The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution.
 Mir-Hosseini, Ziba. Islam and Gender: The Religious Debate in Contemporary Iran.
 Moaddel, Class, Politics, and Ideology in the Iranian Revolution.
 Moazemi, Behrooz. State, Religion, and Revolution in Iran, 1796 to the Present.
 Munson, Henry. Islam an Revolution in the Middle East.
 Parsa, M. States, Ideologies, and Social Revolutions.
 Poulson, Stephen. Social Movements in Twentieth-Century Iran.
 Rahnema, A., An Islamic Utopian: A Political Biography of Ali Shariati.*
 Sanasarian. Eliz. The Women's Rights Movement in Iran.
 Saikal, A., The Rise and Fall of the Shah.

Major Works on Comparative Revolutions

- Arendt, H. On Revolution
- Calvert, Peter. Revolution (1979)
- Cohen, G. Karl Marx's Theory of History
- Davies, James. "Towards a Theory of Revolution," American Sociological Review, Vol. 26, No. 1 (February 1962).
- Draper, Marx's Theory of Revolution.
- Dunn, J. Modern Revolutions
- Edwards, Lyford, The Natural History of Revolution (1927)
- Eisenstadt, S., Revolution and the Transformation of Societies
- Friedrich, Carl (Editor), Revolution Special Issue of Namos, Vol. VIII.
- Friedland, N., Revolutionary Theory.
- Goldstone, J. Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies.
- Greene, T., Comparative Revolutionary Movements
- Gurr, T. Why Men Rebel
- Hagopian, Mark. The Phenomenon of Revolution (1964)
- Johnson, Chalmers. Revolutionary Change
- Kimmel, M. Revolution: A Sociological Interpretation.
- Malia, Martin. History's Locomotives: Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World.
- Marx, K. On Revolution (Edited by S. Padover).
- Mayer, Arno. The Furies: Violence and Terror in the French and Russian Revolutions.
- Mazlish, B. (Edit), Revolution: A Reader.
- Moore, Barrington. Injustice: The Social Bases of Obedience and Revolt.
- Parker, N. Revolutions and History.
- Richards, M. Revolutions in World History.
- Skocpol, T. States and Social Revolution.
- Sewell, W., "Ideologies and Social Revolution: Reflections on the French Case" Journal of Modern History, Vol. 57, No 1 (March 1985).
- Stone, Bailey, The Anatomy of Revolution Revisited
- Tilly, Charles. From Mobilization to Revolution
- Wertheim, W. Evolution and Revolution.
- Wolf, Eric. Peasant Wars in the Twentieth Century.