

SOCI 318

Social Change¹

Instructor: Dr. Peyman Vahabzadeh

Course Description:

This is an in-person class. This course offers an analysis of revolutions and revolutionary change. Two major approaches—one from the Western and another from the Middle Eastern experiences—will be the focus of this course. We will explore the various aspects of revolution as well as its changing paradigms in this neoliberal age. We will see that revolutionary change is basically about bringing new social and political arrangements into this world, and as such, revolutions are akin to birth. Social and political movements and collective action are at the centre of our attention. The course is mostly theoretical in its orientation.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

The students will be familiarized, in relative depth, with what constitutes a revolution and how revolutionary praxis is changes. Some key theoretical components of the study of revolutions will be offered in this course. Documentaries about historic revolutions will be a part of the curriculum.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

None.

Topics May Include:

Revolutions in Europe and Asia, the French Revolution, the Arab Spring, the “social question,” politics, collective action.

Required Resources May Include:

There are two books and a short book assigned for this course. The average weekly reading is about 3 article-length texts for 7 weeks.

Grading May Include:

Grading may be based on participation, in-class open-book midterm(s), a paper, and a final exam. Methods of evaluation will be finalized in the detailed (long) course outline.

Method of Course Delivery:

This will be a blended course with two major components: (1) the amount of work equivalent to one class per week will be self-paced and involves watching the documentaries and attending forum activity on Brightspace; and (2) in-person class on UVic campus involving lectures and discussions. Details on the long course outline.

NOTE: It is important that students avoid attending the class if they feel sick or return from travels.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.