

## **Revolution, Democracy and Authoritarianism in Modern Europe**

Professor Lucan A. Way

Office: B588

Email: [lucan.way@utoronto.ca](mailto:lucan.way@utoronto.ca)

Office hours: Mondays 11-12:30 or by appointment

This course provides an introduction to modern European politics. We focus on democracy, authoritarianism, and revolution. First, we examine the nature and sources of democracy and authoritarianism in modern Europe. What do we mean by democracy? Where did it come from? What are the different forms of non-democratic/authoritarian rule? After examining the different types of explanations for democracy and authoritarianism, we focus on key cases: Great Britain, Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, and Spain. What caused democracy to take root in Great Britain and Spain (in the 1980s); and totalitarianism in Germany and Russia? Next, we examine the nature and sources of social revolutions. What are revolutions? What has been their impact? We will examine the cases of the French Revolution in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Russian revolution in 1917.

To understand both revolutions and democracy/authoritarianism, we will distinguish between structural and voluntarist approaches. Voluntarist approaches focus on the role of particular individuals and particular decisions in shaping major outcomes – i.e. “Lenin caused the Russian revolution.” Structural approaches focus instead on big processes outside of the control of any individual – i.e. economic development, natural resources. This distinction is key to understanding the different types of explanations for revolution, democracy (and many other phenomena).

### **Course Requirements:**

Requirements for the course consist of class participation, 2 midterms and a final.

Grades will be based on the following percentages:

1 Mid-term:	30%
Tutorial participation/attendance:	20%
Final:	50%

**Academic misconduct:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Instances of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the department for further investigation.

### **Required Materials:**

All students should purchase a course reader as well as the books listed below. The books may be purchased from the UTSC bookstore and are also widely available (for possibly a cheaper price) on [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Some of the reading (indicated below) should be downloaded from the UTSC library website:

To do this go to this website and follow the directions:

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~libweb/>

Click on "U of T Catalog"  
Click on "Course Reserves"  
Enter POLB92  
Click on "Way, Lucan"

*Required Books:*

Robert Dahl *Polyarchy*

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982).

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present*

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Vintage Books, Random House, 2000).

### **Week 1: September 11**

#### **Introduction to Course + Structural versus voluntarist approaches**

*Optional reading:* James Mahoney and Richard Snyder "Rethinking Agency and Structure in the Study of Regime Change." (**In reader**)

### **Week 2: September 18: Democracy and Authoritarianism**

What is democracy? What is authoritarianism?

Dahl, *Polyarchy*, pp. 1-47

Steve Levitsky and Lucan A. Way "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism" *Journal of Democracy*. 13: 2 (April 2002). (**In reader**)

### **Week 3: September 25: Where does democracy come from?**

Dahl pp. 48-80

Seymour Martin Lipset, "George Washington and the Founding of Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, October 1998, 9(4): 24-38 (**get off library website**)

J. Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in Diamond and Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, pp. 124-142 (**In reader**)

### **Week 4: October 2: Where it all started: Democracy in England**

Merriman, 553-567; 573-591, (skim 573-587) 661-669; 755-763

John Stephens, "Democratic Transition and Breakdown in Europe, 1870-1939: A Test of the Moore Thesis," *American Journal of Sociology* 94, 5 (March 1989) (**get on web**)

**Week 5: October 16: Revolutions – Theory**

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto" (**In reader**)

Theda Skocpol and Ellen Kay Trimberger, "Revolutions: A Structural Analysis" (**In reader**)

Jack A. Goldstone, "The English Revolution: A Structural Demographic Approach" (**In reader**)

**Week 6: October 23: The French Revolution**

Merriman, 469-516

**Week 7: October 30: Russian Revolution**

**\*\*ONE HOUR MID-TERM – COVERING WEEKS 1-6\*\***

**Week 8: November 6: Russian Revolution + Stalinism**

Fitzpatrick 1-84

**Week 9: November 13: Naziism**

Henry Ashby Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: January 1933* (New York: Addison-Wesley, 1996): 163-183. (**In reader**)

Merriman, 1125-1141

Mazower Chapter 4

**Week 10: November 20: The Other Europe**

Merriman 1214-1232

Mazower, Chapters 7-8

**Week 11: November 27: The Rise of Post War Europe:**

Merriman, 1232-36

Martin Conway, "Democracy in Postwar Western Europe: The Triumph of a Political Model," *European History Quarterly* 32(1), 2002, pp. 59-84 (**get on web**)

Mazower chapter 9

**Week 12: December 4: Democratization in Southern Europe/Spain**

Merriman, 1298-1300

Lawrence Whitehead, "Democracy by Convergence and Southern Europe." In G. Pridham ed. *Encouraging Democracy: The International Context of Regime Transition in Southern Europe* pp. 45-61. (**In reader**)

Jonathan Story and Benny Pollack. Spain's Transition: Domestic and External Linkages." In G. Pridham ed. *Encouraging Democracy: The International Context of Regime Transition in Southern Europe* pp. 125-158. **(In reader)**

Richard Gunther, "Spain: The Very Model of a Modern Elite Settlement." In John Higley and Richard Gunther, eds., *Elites and Democratic Consolidation in Latin America and Southern Europe*. Cambridge University Press, 1992: 38-80. **(In reader)**