

COURSE DETAIL

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLITICAL REVOLUTIONS

Country

France

Host Institution

University of Bordeaux

Program(s)

University of Bordeaux

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

116

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLITICAL REVOLUTIONS

UCEAP Transcript Title

ANTH/POL REVOLUTION

UCEAP Quarter Units

3.00

UCEAP Semester Units

2.00

Course Description

Beyond the idea that revolutions are the driving forces of social and political transformation, this course examines revolutions in their historical time as well as across history from the perspective of political anthropology. It uses the concepts of liminality, social dramas, crowd behavior, imitation, tricksters, and meaning formation. These concepts disentangle the study of revolutions from structures and the search for causes and outcomes, as well as from ideology, culture, and agency, opening them to a comparative analysis at the level of process, form, and symbolism. After a theoretical introduction, the course turns its focus on historical experiences of the major socio-political revolutions of the modern era: the "big three" revolutions (French, Russian, and Chinese revolutions); the "third world" (Mexico, Cuba) to eastern Europe in 1989; from Iran (1978-1979) to the Arab Spring (2011). The course concludes by looking back at the main themes covered by the class and examining the prospect for revolutionary change in the contemporary world, thus considering whether the concept of revolution should be consigned, or not, to the "dustbin of history." Students are encouraged to develop comparisons across time and space.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.sciencespobordeaux.fr/fr/international-students-and-programs/progra...>

Host Institution Campus

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department**

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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