

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 1979-80

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
135	Colloquium in Comparative World History Primitive Rebels: Comparative Studies of Protest Movements	Stern

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Banditry, revolutionary religious movements, city riots, peasant revolutions-- all these forms of social protest are unfamiliar to many people in the United States. They seem to be "primitive," outmoded forms of dissent or rebellion peculiar to Third World peoples, or ~~xx~~ to the history of pre-modern groups (peasants, pre-industrial workers and artisans, cowboys, etc.) in Europe and the United States.

Yet distant as these primitive rebels may seem, we would be foolish to ignore them. Indeed, their activity has shaped an important part of our own historical identity. Banditry in the Mexican-American Southwest reveals an essential dimension of the Chicano experience; the trauma and aftermath of peasant revolution in VietNam still hangs heavily over the United States. And more generally, the primitive rebels may have something to say about the modern world in which we live. For often they opposed aspects of modern society which they, as newcomers, found oppressive.

This course has two purposes. One is to introduce students to historical examples and interpretations of social protest. The other is to use the comparative study of protest movements as a forum through which to improve basic skills in: critical analysis, research techniques, writing style and organization, and oral discussion and debate.

LECTURES

None, since this is an intensive workshop in historical analysis. Reading, discussion, and debate among a small group (no more than fifteen students) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS are the primary activities of the course.

There will be no exams. Aside from active participation in weekly reading and discussion, assignments will be four short papers (four pages each), and participation in a class debate or presentation on an historical issue.

NOTE: All assignments and due dates are subject to negotiation at the start of the semester.

GRADING SYSTEM

Tentative weighting, subject to negotiation, is as follows:
papers = 40%; class debate/presentation = 20%; discussion = 40%.

REQUIRED READINGS

A tentative syllabus is available.

History 135. Primitive Rebels.

Week 1. Introduction. No reading assignment.

I. SOCIAL BANDITS.

Week 2. An Interpretation.

E. J. Hobsbawm, Bandits.

Week 3. Historical Case Study (I).

Leonard Pitt, The Decline of the Californios, Chs.1-8.

Week 4. Historical Case Study (II).

Pitt, The Decline, Chs.9-16.

Week 5. Biographies of Chicano Bandits.

Pedro Castillo & Albert Camarillo, Furia y Muerte,
selected parts.

Week 6. Class Debate or Presentations.

II. REVOLUTIONARY MILLENARIANS.

Week 7. An Interpretation from Europe.

Norman Cohn, The Pursuit of the Millennium, selected parts.

Week 8. An Interpretation from the Third World.

Peter Worsley, The Trumpet Shall Sound, selected parts.

Week 9. From Millennium to Politics.

Worsley, The Trumpet Shall Sound, selected parts.

Week 10. Class Debate or Presentations.

Optional reading:

Eric Hobsbawm, Primitive Rebels, 1-12, 57-107.

III. CITY MOBS AND PEASANT REBELS.

Week 11. Crowds: A Classic Interpretation.

E. P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English
Crowd," 76-136.

Optional: Hobsbawm, Primitive Rebels, 108-125.

Week 12. Peasant Rebellion (I)

James C. Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant, Chs.1-4.

Week 13. Peasant Rebellion (II).

Scott, The Moral Economy, Chs.5-7.

History 135 (cont'd).

Week 14. Historical Case Study: VietNam.

Eric Wolf, Peasant Wars, preface, Ch.4, Conclusion.

Week 15. Class Debate or Presentations.

Optional reading:

Max Gluckman, Order and Rebellion in Tribal Africa, 110-136 ("Rituals of Rebellion").

Comprehensive list of reading materials:

• Pedro Castillo and Albert Camarillo, eds., Furia y Muerte: Los Bandidos Chicanos U. Of Cal. Press.

• Norman Cohn, The Pursuit of the Millennium. Revolutionary Millenarians and Mystical Anarchists of the Middle Ages (NY: Oxford Univ., 1970).

Max Gluckman, Order and Rebellion in Tribal Africa (London, 1963).

• E.J. Hobsbawm, Bandits (NY, 1969).

• E.J. Hobsbawm, Primitive Rebels: Studies in Archaic Forms of Social Movements in the 19th and 20th Centuries (NY, 1959).

• Leonard Pitt, The Decline of the Californios. A Social History of the Spanish-Speaking Californians, 1846-1890 (Berkeley, 1966).

• James C. Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant. Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia (New Haven, 1976).

E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," Past and Present (1971), 76-136.

• Eric Wolf, Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century (NY, 1969).

• Peter Worsley, The Trumpet Shall Sound. A Study of 'Cargo' Cults in Melanesia, 2nd ed. (NY, 1968).

• available in bookstore