Peasant studies have attracted considerable scholarly attention during the past two decades. Within this general field the subject of peasant rebellion and revolution has been a particular focus of investigation for numerous historians and social scientists. The seminar will address three of the broad issues which have tended to dominate scholarly discussion of this subject. First, how have peasant societies been affected by and responded to the impact of modernization? Has modernization substantially increased the likelihood of peasant revolts? Second, what social factors tend to promote or to retard the mobilization of peasants in collective action, especially in revolutionary movements? And third, what classes or types of peasants have displayed the greatest potential for revolution? Though the instructor is particularly interested in Irish agrarian rebellions of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this seminar will be concerned with peasant upheavals in a wide variety of geographical and temporal settings. The theoretical issues mentioned above will be explored through a concrete examination of revolutionary movements in France, Russia, Latin America, and especially China and Vietnam.

There will be three written assignments: (1) a report of about six pages on the assigned reading and related discussion questions for one session of the seminar; (2) a critical book review, eight to ten pages in length, and (3) a research proposal of about fifteen pages, to include a detailed outline of the project and a comprehensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Though the exact weighing of the different elements will be decided after general discussion at our first meeting, I suggest the following distribution: (1) seminar report (15 percent); (2) critical book review (15 percent); (3) research proposal (30 percent); (4) informed participation in seminar discussion (40 percent).

(See attached sheet.)
REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (Stanford University Press).


Rebellious and Revolutionary Peasantries

A Select Bibliography

* Available in paperback


*Blum, Jerome, Lord and Peasant in Russia from the Ninth to the Nineteenth Century, New York: Atheneum, 1964.


