

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 1981-2

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u>                      | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 572               | Rebellious and Revolutionary Peasantries | Donnelly          |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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, China, Viet Nam, and Latin America.

LECTURES

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

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.

GRADING SYSTEM

Though the exact weighting 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).

REQUIRED READINGS

(See attached sheet)

History 572  
Professor Donnelly  
Semester II

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Samuel Clark, Social Origins of the Irish Land War. Princeton U.P.

Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. Beacon Press.

James C. Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant. Yale U.P.

Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions. Cambridge U.P.

Eric R. Wolf, Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century. Harper Torchbooks.

Jack M. Potter, M.N. Diaz, and G.M. Foster (Ed.), Peasant Society: A Reader.  
Little, Brown, and Co.