

# Advanced Study Course: Revolutions and Contentious Politics

## About the course

subject	Global Studies / Internationale udviklingsstudier / International Public Administration and Politics / Politik / Politik og forvaltning
activitytype	master course
Teaching language	English
Registration	<p>You register for activities through <a href="#">stads selvbetjening</a> during the announced registration period, which you can see on the <a href="#">Study administration homepage</a>.</p> <p>When registering for courses, please be aware of the potential conflicts and overlaps between course and exam time and dates. The planning of course activities at Roskilde University is based on the recommended study programmes, which should not overlap. However, if you choose optional courses and/or study plans that goes beyond the recommended study programmes, an overlap of lectures or exam dates may occur depending on which courses you choose.</p> <p>In case of too few registrations, the course will be cancelled.</p>
Detailed description of content	<p>This course investigates the nature of political revolutions: when do revolutions occur? Why do they occur? Can we identify general 'causes' behind the outbreak of revolutions? The course also looks at revolutions as historical events that sometimes unfold in unpredictable ways. Finally, the course discusses the afterlives and the long-term consequences of revolutions. While the primary focus will be on the 'big revolutions' that changed national and global history (such as the French, Russian or Iranian revolutions), we will also discuss the broader notion of 'contentious politics', e.g. the many ways in which social actors contest power and try to change the society in which they live. In the last part of the course we will engage recent and ongoing dramatic events, with a focus on the Middle East.</p> <p>The course lectures (minor changes may occur):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Revolutions, contentious politics and the shaping of modernity: History and theory. Course introduction. Bjørn Thomassen (BT)</li><li>2) Revolutions and contentious politics: Structural theories of revolutions &amp; contentious politics (BT)</li><li>3) Cultural theories: Revolution as event and liminal transition (BT)</li><li>4) Ideologies of resistance and revolution. Sune Haugbølle (SH)</li><li>5) The French Revolution (BT)</li><li>6) The Russian Revolution (BT)</li><li>7) The Cuban Revolution and the Tricontinental (Sorcha)</li><li>8) The Iranian Revolution – Islamic Revolution? (SH)</li><li>9) The Arab Spring (SH)</li><li>10) Square Politics: The Maidan uprising in Ukraine (BT)</li><li>11) Revolution, contentious politics and state-society relations in Iraq (Henrik)</li><li>12) Revolutionary mobilization in Syria (SH)</li><li>13) After Revolutions? Concluding perspectives (BT &amp; SH)</li></ol> <p>The examination is in two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Assignment written during the course.</li><li>2. 7-day written assignment.</li></ol> <p>The first part of the examination is an answer to the question that will be handed out at the start of the course (lecture 1) and that students can work on throughout the course period. The assignment should be around 14,000 characters, including spaces (corresponding to five standard pages).</p>

The student is given 7 days to write the second part of the examination. The assignment is set on January 8 (a rough indication of the exam question will be given at the date of the final course session). The assignment should be around 14,000 characters, including spaces (corresponding to five standard pages).

Total character limit: maximum 28,800 characters, including spaces (try to balance length so that each essay is more or less the same length).

The character limits include the cover, table of contents, bibliography, figures and other illustrations, but exclude any appendices.

Assessment: 7-point grading scale. The assessment is individual and based on the entire portfolio.

The entire portfolio must be handed in at the same time.

Expected work effort (ECTS-declaration)

Lectures: 26 hours Preparation for lectures: 78 hours Exam: 166 hours  
Total of 270 hours

Course material and Reading list

The course will draw on articles and book chapters to be posed on moodle. There is no single textbook for the course. Students will be able to identify additional literature related to specific case studies of their interest.

Evaluation- and feedback forms

There will be a midterm and final in-class course evaluation. Feedback on the written portfolio exam will take place via follow-up office hours.

Administration of exams

ISE Studyadministration ([ise-studyadministration@ruc.dk](mailto:ise-studyadministration@ruc.dk))

Responsible for the activity

Bjørn Thomassen ([bthomas@ruc.dk](mailto:bthomas@ruc.dk))

ECTS

10

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

- Specialised knowledge and understanding of a particular topic within one of the three pillars in Global Studies
- Advanced knowledge of academic and methodological debates related to the subject
- Skills in selecting and critically applying relevant theories and methods
- Skills in choosing relevant theories in order to investigate a problem area
- Skills in communicating and discussing theories and empirical results
- Competences in assuming responsibility for and reflecting on own learning and that of fellow students by actively participating in group work, presentations and discussions
- Competences in critically, independently and creatively selecting and utilising academic literature relevant to a specific research question

Overall content

The objective of the advanced study course is to provide the students with advanced knowledge and understanding within a specific research area covered by one of the three pillars in Global Studies: Global Politics, Global Sociology and Global Political Economy. At least two advanced study courses will be offered per semester. The courses offered will change every semester within the following subjects:

Global Politics:

- International public sector organisations and global governance
- Regionalisation and regional integration in international politics
- International security
- International law and human rights

Global Sociology:

- International Mobility and information flow
- International political movements and social change
- International civil society, law and defence
- Contentious identities and new global actors

Global Political Economy:

- Work and globalization
- Natural resources and geopolitics
- Trade, investment and global production networks
- International Financial Economics

Teaching and working methods	The courses are based on lectures, but will also include other teaching and working methods such as group work, exercises, student presentations, peer feedback and field trips or guest lectures as well as other practical activities.
Type of activity	Elective course
Form of examination (p1)	<p>Individual written portfolio.</p> <p>The portfolio consists of 2 written products, that wholly or partially are developed during the course. For example, products can be exercise responses, speech papers for presentations, written feedback, reflection, written assignments. The preparation of the products may be subject to time limits.</p> <p>The character limit: maximum 28,800 characters, including spaces. The character limits include the cover, table of contents, bibliography, figures and other illustrations, but exclude any appendices.</p> <p>The portfolio's specific products and the (if relevant) recommended size (character limit) for the individual products are made public on study.ruc.dk before the course begins.</p> <p>The entire portfolio must be handed in at the same time. The submission deadline will be public on study.ruc.dk before the course begins.</p> <p>The assessment is individual and based on the entire portfolio.</p> <p>Assessment: 7-point grading scale.</p>
Form of Re-examination (p1)	Samme som ordinær eksamen
Exam code(s)	Exam code(s) : U40929

Course days:

Hold: 1

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 08-09-2020 08:15 til  
08-09-2020 10:00

location 11.2-047 - gl. natfagsal (50)

Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 15-09-2020 08:15 til  
15-09-2020 10:00

location 25.3-005 - teori (54)

Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 22-09-2020 08:15 til  
22-09-2020 10:00

location 11.2-047 - gl. natfagsal (50)  
Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 29-09-2020 08:15 til  
29-09-2020 10:00  
location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)  
Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 06-10-2020 08:15 til  
06-10-2020 10:00  
location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)  
Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 13-10-2020 08:15 til  
13-10-2020 10:00  
forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt  
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt  
location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)  
Teacher Sorcha Amy MacGregor Thomson ( samt@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 27-10-2020 08:15 til  
27-10-2020 10:00  
forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt  
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt  
location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)  
Teacher Sune Haugbølle ( suneha@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 03-11-2020 08:15 til  
03-11-2020 10:00  
forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt  
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt  
location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)  
Teacher Sune Haugbølle ( suneha@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 10-11-2020 08:15 til  
10-11-2020 10:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

location 46.3-042 - teorirum (50)

Teacher Sune Haugbølle ( suneha@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 24-11-2020 08:15 til  
24-11-2020 10:00

location 11.2-047 - gl. natfagsal (50)

Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 01-12-2020 08:15 til  
01-12-2020 10:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

location 11.2-047 - gl. natfagsal (50)

Teacher Henrik Andersen ( henand@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 08-12-2020 08:15 til  
08-12-2020 10:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

location 11.2-047 - gl. natfagsal (50)

Teacher Sune Haugbølle ( suneha@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time 10-12-2020 08:15 til  
10-12-2020 10:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

location 08.1-032 - teorilokale (50)

Teacher Bjørn Thomassen ( bthomas@ruc.dk )  
Sune Haugbølle ( suneha@ruc.dk )

## Revolutions and contentious politics - Exam (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time	15-01-2021 10:00 til 15-01-2021 10:00
forberedelsesnorm	ikke valgt
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP	ikke valgt

## Revolutions and contentious politics - Reexam (PF, GS, IDS, IPAP, POL)

time	26-02-2021 10:00 til 26-02-2021 10:00
forberedelsesnorm	ikke valgt
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP	ikke valgt