The purpose of this seminar is to examine various modalities of uprising, revolt and other forms of contestation. Instead of including them all under the name of revolution—a term that has become conceptually and historically fraught—we are interested in considering how specific experiences and discourses articulate new forms of uprising or reformulate well known ones. By focusing on this conceptual, and at the same time, historical and decidedly political problematic, we intend to shine a light on experiences and manifestations that take place at the local and at the global level, as well as at the individual or subjective and the collective level. The idea is to articulate how critical political practice is expressed and understood today.
The graduate student seminar will be structured to frame a series of 13 formal seminars (the “formal seminars” or “Uprising 13/13”) at which two or three guests, from different disciplines, will be invited to discuss the readings and present on the themes of the seminar. Each formal seminar will host specialists from across the disciplines, from Columbia University and from outside campus. It will also frame and interrelate with a Paris Reading Group that will run alongside the seminar. (See Paris Reading Group below). The graduate student seminar thus will serve as the vehicle to enrich the formal 13/13 seminars and support the intellectual apparatus that will accompany those formal seminars. It will also prepare entries for the blog of the formal seminars, host the scholars invited to participate in the formal seminars, and prepare questions and comments for the formal seminars. This seminar will also function as an advanced graduate research seminar.

In addition, students interested in this seminar may also be interested in Professor Étienne Balibar’s seminar in the Fall 2017 on “Revolution”: A Future Past? In that seminar, Professor Balibar will undertake a genealogy and semantic examination of the concept of revolution, a central category of modern philosophical thought. The seminar will be offered through the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society (ICLS) and will include readings by Koselleck, Tocqueville, Arendt, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Schmitt, Gramsci, Gandhi, Fanon, Mao, Koyre and Kuhn, among others.

**Description of the “Formal Seminar”: Uprising 13/13**

The formal 13/13 seminar will focus on 13 modalities:

- Revolution (Sept. 14, 2017)
- Insurgency (Oct. 5, 2017)
- Uprising (Oct. 26, 2017)
- #BlackLivesMatter (Nov. 9, 2017)
- Swaraj (Nov. 30, 2017)
- Revolt (Dec. 14, 2017)
- Disobedience (Jan. 9, 2018)
- Breaking Silence (Jan. 18, 2018)
- Trouble (Feb. 8, 2018)
- Anti-imperialism (March 1, 2018)
- Hacktivism (March 22, 2018)
- Standing Rock (April 12, 2018)
- Counterrevolution (April 26, 2018)
Each seminar will be led by invited scholars, from outside and the from within Columbia University, as well as a commentator. Each seminar will follow a similar format as in previous years (Foucault 13/13 and Nietzsche 13/13), beginning with a short introduction of the readings and guests, followed by two short guest presentations (15-20 minutes max each) and a commentary (10-15 minutes max), and then open discussion with the participants for over an hour. The sessions will begin promptly at 6:15pm and will end promptly at 8:45pm. The format, then, will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:25pm</td>
<td>Presentation by outside guest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45pm</td>
<td>Presentation by Columbia guest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Commentary and questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>Open discussion and comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Closing remarks of the guests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>End of the seminar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description of the Paris Reading Group**

In addition, there will be a graduate student reading group in Paris that will be spearheaded by Florent Jakob, Daniele Lorenzini, Christine Valero, and Loren Wolfe at the Columbia Global Center—Paris that will meet regularly to participate virtually in the formal Uprising 13/13 seminar and to run a parallel reading group to discuss the readings. These sessions will invite leading experts from various disciplines to discuss the readings at the Paris reading group.

**Assignments**

For each seminar, there will be assigned readings. A tentative syllabus is attached. It may be updated and revised, in which case any changes will be posted on our Courseworks page. You should consult the Courseworks page regularly to get updates and information about the seminar.

In addition, during the first session of the graduate seminar, we will organize students into research groups in charge of a research cluster, which will work on amplifying or modifying the readings and creating an annotated bibliography. Each research cluster will help prepare blog posts for the formal seminar, questions, and comments.
Each student, in coordination with the others, will be responsible during one of the formal seminars for the Live Streaming and Twitter (LST) room. The LST room is a dynamic, interactive virtual space that will be run simultaneously alongside the formal seminars. The idea of the LST Room is to virtually extend participation beyond the seminar room and create a virtual space for our public to not only watch our guests speak, but also to formulate questions that will directly inform the seminar discussion. Questions arising in the LST room will be transmitted to our guest speakers during the formal seminar itself via email and Twitter. So being in charge of the LST room means communicating with others, who are not physically present in the formal seminar but watching the livestream, to pose their questions or comments.

**Tentative Research Clusters**

During the first seminar session, we will form the research clusters and determine the themes of research. You will present your research at the end of the year during a day-long conference that we will all organize together. Your work in research clusters should be guided by these norms:

- **Choose a research subject and form a balanced, cross-disciplinary research group.**
- **Choose carefully your bibliographical sources.** With these sources, you can create an electronic resource (catalogue, map, timeline, etc.). For this purpose, you can contact different people across campus: specialists in digital humanities like Alex Gil, or Denis Tennen; specialists in digital curatorship and preservation, like the CDRS (Center for Digital Research and Scholarship); if you are using the materials in the Center of Oral History, work closely with the staff; similarly, if you are working at the Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, work closely with them.
- **Your sources will also be your first theoretical resource.** Study them carefully and learn to develop a sixth sense in order to harvest concepts, expressions, ideas, wrinkles that will help you think critically about modalities of uprising. Pay particular attention to questions of vocabulary that may yield understated critical forms of uprising.
- **Discuss your theoretical approaches.** Based on the kind of sources and their conceptual richness, you may want to discuss other theoretical contributions that will help you think with your sources. The questions you may ask may vary, but perhaps instead of asking mainly “how does [insert trendy theorist] help me
understand uprising and/or critique?”, you can pose questions like “how do my sources help me re-think issues and questions posited by [theorists] about uprising? Aren’t these sources asking questions that those other theorists have not asked sufficiently? How are this sources critically productive?”, etc.

- Your work as a group is essentially that of a **micro-seminar**: the collection and discussion of materials is a collective endeavor; however, each of you needs to have her or his personal investment in the materials and create blogs, articles or other more personal, individual contributions.

Possible research clusters could include the following:

1. Uprising and illegalisms
2. The production of the revolutionary urban space
3. Uprising and intersectionality
4. Social media and forms of political convergence for revolt
5. Forms of uprising not considered in the syllabus (riot, flash-mob, etc)
6. Aesthetics of revolution
7. Art and protest
8. Scientific revolution

### Required Readings

The texts for the course will be assigned required and optional readings, mostly available on Courseworks and/or at Book Culture. In order to access the readings and syllabus on-line, please go to the Courseworks page and login using your UNI and password here: [https://courseworks.columbia.edu/welcome/](https://courseworks.columbia.edu/welcome/) All digital materials will be posted to the Courseworks page.

### Background Readings

There are a number of key texts that you should be familiar with and that you may wish to read over the summer in preparation for the seminar. These include, especially:

- Frantz FANON, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)
- Antonio GRAMSCI, *Selection from the Prison Notebooks*
Seminar Syllabus: Modalities of Uprising (Harcourt & Velasco)

Requirements

Graduate students are expected to read the assigned materials prior to the formal seminar and should be prepared to offer public comments to facilitate seminar discussion. There should be no absences. If a student has an excused absence, please e-mail Anna Krauthamer (ak4035@columbia.edu) by 10:00 a.m. of the day of the seminar.

Students will be conducting their own research and prepare, for each semester, (a) one 5-page book review or pre-seminar blog-post providing guidance on the topics that week, and (b) one 5-page blog-post discussing and elaborating on the intellectual discussion at one of the 13/13 seminars. In addition, this work will form part of a final paper for the seminar of about 20 pages.

Professor Harcourt will hold office hours on Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in his office, Jerome Greene Hall 603. Please contact his assistant, Anna Krauthamer (ak4035@law.columbia.edu) to schedule an appointment. Office hours are by appointment only.

Professor Velasco will hold office hours on Tuesdays, 10-12 in his office, 301 Casa Hispánica, 612 W116th Street. Office hours are by appointment only.

Laptop Policy

You are discouraged from bringing a laptop to the formal seminar. Should you choose to bring one anyway, you may only use your laptop for two purposes: (1) as a word processor to take and read notes; or (2) as a reader to consult assigned course materials that are on-line or saved on your hard drive. You may not use your laptop in the seminar, ever, to surf the web, shop on-line, or for any other purpose that is not seminar related. If you are the kind of person who cannot resist temptation, please leave your laptop at home. It is very distracting to one’s peers when someone else is shopping on-line. Please respect your peers and this policy.

There is one exception: if you are responsible for the Live Streaming and Twitter (LST) room. See assignments above. When you are responsible for the LST room, you will be on-line throughout the designated seminar.
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

September 7th, exceptionally at 12:10pm. Introductory session. This is a session with the students and the instructors, with the purpose of setting up the seminar and creating the research groups.

September 14th. Revolution.
Readings:
- Reinhardt Koselleck, “Historical Criteria of the Modern Concept of Revolution”
- Karl Marx, 18 Brumaire of Louis Napoléon Bonaparte
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto

October 5th. Insurgency.
Readings:
- Mao Zedong, Little Red Book.

October 26th. Uprising: Arab Spring.
Readings:

November 9th. #BlackLivesMatter.
Readings:
- Raoul Peck, I am not your Negro, Film, 2016.

November 30th. Swaraj.
Readings:
Seminar Syllabus: Modalities of Uprising (Harcourt & Velasco)

2017-2018

- Mohandas Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*

December 14th. Revolt.
Readings:

January 9th. Disobedience. Day-long colloquium in Paris CGC.
Readings:
- Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*
- Stéphane Hessel, *Time for Outrage! [Indignez-vous!]*

Readings:
- James Baldwin, *Here Be Dragons*
- Martin Luther King, “It is time to break silence”
- Martin Luther King, “Letter from the Birmingham Jail”
- Women in the Civil Rights Movement, Library of Congress articles. “The Civil Rights History Project includes interviews with over 50 women who came from a wide range of backgrounds and were involved in the movement in a myriad of ways.” [www.loc.gov/collections/civil-Rights-history-project](http://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-Rights-history-project) [NB: does the oral history center at Columbia hold similar collections?]
Seminar Syllabus: Modalities of Uprising (Harcourt & Velasco)

2017-2018

- Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies*
- Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*
- Paul B. Preciado, *Manifeste Contresexuel*

March 1. Anti-imperialism / Independence
Readings
- Emiliano Zapata, *Plan de Zapata*
- Fidel Castro, *Palabras a los intelectuales*

March 22nd. Hacktivism.
Readings:

April 12th. Standing Rock.
Readings

April 26th. Counterrevolution.
Readings:
- General David Petraeus’s *Counterinsurgency Field Manual*