

## SC355 S07: Social Movement Theory and Practice

Wednesdays, 3-5:20, Cushing 208

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### Course Description

In some historical contexts, social movements have been considered legitimate political actors; in others, treacherous and subversive. Always they constitute a potential threat to those in power. When do social movements emerge and how are they organized? How and when can they successfully bring about social change? Drawing on articles, movement documents and videos, and activist accounts, this seminar will examine the theory and practice of social movements against the historical backdrop of several important American and European movements over the last half century, including the civil rights, women's, environmental, and peace movements, and the current international movement against corporate globalization.

### Course Requirements

- 1) Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions. Attendance and my assessment of your level of engagement with the class (including talking in class, doing the reading, coming to office hours, etc.) will constitute a significant part of your grade. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, let me know by email and I will mark it excused. If you have to miss class, please make sure to get notes from a fellow student and keep up with all readings and assignments.
- 2) Journaling. As a supplement to in-class discussion and as a way of processing the materials we cover, I will ask each student to buy a separate spiral notebook or journal, to be used exclusively for recording your thoughts and reactions to the readings, our discussions, and the films we view. I will periodically collect and read the journals as a way of entering into a more individualized intellectual dialogue with you. I will not grade them on content, but on the degree to which you seem to be consistently and thoughtfully engaging with the material.
- 3) Paper #1 (5-6 pages). Over the course of the semester, you will be writing three papers on the same assignment – in a sense, you can think of it as three iterations of your thoughts on the same question, which is: *How can social movements in the US today best proceed, based on the experiences of activists and the contributions of social movement theorists over the last half century?* Your first attempt at answering this question will draw on the readings from weeks 1-7 and should include the experiences of one or two of the movements we cover in those weeks.
- 4) Paper #2 (7-8 pages). Your second attempt at answering the question from Paper #1 should modify and strengthen your argument, based on your consideration of the material covered in weeks 8-11 and incorporation of the experiences of at least one additional movement beyond what you included in the first paper.

- 5) Final paper (10-12 pages). In lieu of a final exam, you will write a final paper, a last iteration of the first two papers, this time drawing on all of the material– both historical and theoretical – covered over the course of the semester, and incorporating the experiences of one movement from weeks 1-7, one from weeks 8-11, and one from weeks 12-15. How has activism changed in that period? What have we learned and what do we still need to learn? It will be due on the last day of class.

### **Grading**

Your final grade for the course will be derived according to the following weighting of individual requirements:

Attendance/Participation	10%
Journaling	15%
Paper #1	20%
Paper #2	25%
Final Paper	30%

### **Course Format**

I will usually do some lecturing at the beginning of class, in order to orient or frame our discussion, but most of our class time will be spent in discussion, watching videos, and/or doing group exercises. Discussion will be your time to make sense of what you're reading and engage with the theoretical debates in the field. My orienting lectures will also go beyond what we cover in the readings, so if you have to miss a class, make sure to have someone you can rely on take notes for you. I will do my part to facilitate discussion, help you understand the key arguments being made in the readings, and challenge you to think intelligently, creatively, and critically about the material. Since it is difficult (and quite boring) to have a class discussion about something only a few people have read, please do your best to come to class having completed the readings assigned for that day and prepared to discuss them.

### **Academic Integrity**

It is each student's responsibility to understand and adhere to the accepted norms of intellectual honesty in their academic work. Any form of cheating, plagiarism, dishonesty, or collusion in another's dishonesty is a fundamental violation of these norms. To see the College's policies in this area go to: <http://www.bc.edu/integrity>. Two other sources to consult about proper citation rules and exactly what constitutes a breach of policy are: "Plagiarism Examples and Guidelines: A Quiz" at [http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/#Example\\_four](http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/#Example_four) and the American Sociological Association's "Quick Style Guide" at <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Sociology+Depts&name=Quick+Style+Guide>).

**A note about late papers.** Generally, papers will be graded down by 5 percentage points for each day they are late. If you must turn a paper in late due to an emergency (i.e. something that is both *unavoidable and unforeseen*), make sure to contact me by email as soon as possible. If you know about an unavoidable conflict ahead of time, let me know *in advance*, and we can arrange an extension. Journals that are not turned in due to unexcused absences will not be accepted late.

## Readings

There are 6 required books for this course:

- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Berger, Dan. 2006. *Outlaws of America: The Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity*. Oakland, CA: AK Press.
- Hayden, Tom. *Reunion: A Memoir*. (selections compiled in coursepack form)
- Brown, Elaine. *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story*
- Echols, Alice. *Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975*
- Epstein, Barbara. *Political Protest & Cultural Revolution: Nonviolent Direct Action in the 1970s and 1980s*.

These books are all available at the Bookstore and on reserve at O'Niell Library. There may be one more book on the global justice movement added in the next few weeks. It will also be ordered through the bookstore, but I will let you know in plenty of time to be able to order it used on-line if you would like.

All other assigned readings are available through electronic reserves and can be downloaded and printed from any computer with an internet connection. From the library home page (<http://www.bc.edu/libraries/>), go to "resources," then to "course reserves catalog," log in, and look up the course.

## Weekly Schedule and Readings

### 1. January 17 Introduction

### 2. January 24 Theory 1 – Collective Behavior & Early Resource Mobilization

Readings:

- John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization in Social Movements: A Partial Theory" *American Journal of Sociology* 82:1212-41.
- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2, pp.5-35.
- J. Craig Jenkins. 1983. "Resource Mobilization Theory and the Study of Social Movements" *Annual Review of Sociology* 9:527-553.

### 3. January 31 Theory 2 –Political Process and Political Opportunity Models

Readings:

- Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 1977. *Poor Peoples Movements: Why They Succeed, and How They Fail*. New York: Pantheon Books. Introduction, pp. ix-xvii and Chapter 1, "The Structuring of Protest." pp.1-37.
- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 3-4. pp.36-64.

- Koopmans, Ruud. 1995. *Democracy from Below: New Social Movements and the Political System in West Germany*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Ch.1.

#### **4. February 7 The Rise of Students for a Democratic Society**

Readings:

- Hayden, Tom. 1988. *Reunion: A Memoir*. New York: Collier Books. Chapters 2-9, pp. 25-219.

#### **5. February 14 The Events of 1968, the End of SDS, and the Birth of the Weatherman**

Readings:

- Katsiaficas, George. 1987. *The Imagination of the New Left: A Global Analysis of 1968*. Boston: South End Press. Chapters 2-3, pp.29-103.
- Hayden, Tom. *Reunion: A Memoir*. Chapters 12-13, pp. 253-326.
- Berger, Dan. 2006. *Outlaws of America: the Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity*. Oakland, CA: AK Press. Chapters 4-5, pp.75-124.

#### **6. February 21 The “Bad Sixties?”The Black PantherParty and the WUO**

Readings:

- Brown, Elaine. *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman’s Story*
- Berger, Dan. 2006. *Outlaws of America: the Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity*. Oakland, CA: AK Press. Chapters 6-7, pp.127-181; Chapters 9-10, pp.199-243.

#### **7. February 28 Cointelpro: State Repression of SDS, the Panthers, and AIM**

Film: “Incident at Oglala”

Readings:

- Chapters 3 and 11 from *Outlaws*, pp.61-73 and pp.245-264.
- Chapters 14-16 from *Reunion*, pp.327-412.
- Churchill, Ward. 1994. “The Bloody Wake of Alcatraz: Political Repression of the American Indian Movement during the 1970s” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 18(4):253-300.

#### **Friday, March 2: Paper #1 due by 5pm in my box (McGuinn 426)**

**March 5-9 Spring Break!**

#### **8. March 14 Theory 3 – New Social Movement Theory**

Readings:

- Hirsch, Joachim. 1983 “The Fordist Security State and New Social Movements.” *Kapitalistate* 10/11:75-87.
- Offe, Claus. 1985. “New Social Movements: Challenging the Boundaries of Institutional Politics.” *Social Research* 52:817-868.

- Nelson A. Pichardo. 1997. "New Social Movements: A Critical Review" *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:411-430.
- Skim if you have time: Craig Calhoun. 1993. "'New Social Movements' of the Early Nineteenth Century" *Social Science History* 17(3):385-427.

### 9. March 21 "Second Wave" Feminism: the New Women's Movement

Readings:

- Morgan, Robin, ed. 1970. *Sisterhood is Powerful: An Anthology of Writings from the Women's Liberation Movement*. "Introduction" pp.xiii-xl (27 pgs); "Historical Documents" pp. 512-529 (17 pgs) (44 pgs)
- Echols, Alice. *Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975*. Chapters 2-3, pp.51-137, and Chapter 5, pp. 203-241. (124 pgs)

### 10. March 28 Environmental Movement

Readings:

- Epstein, Barbara. *Political Protest & Cultural Revolution: Nonviolent Direct Action in the 1970s and 1980s*.
- panagiotti. "Evolving Earth First!" *Earth First! Journal* 26(6). Available online at: <http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/articles.php?a=916>
- Faber, Daniel and Deborah McCarthy. 2001. "The Evolving Structure of the Environmental Justice Movement in the United States: New Models for Democratic Decision-making." *Social Justice Research* 14(4):405-421. (16 pgs)

### 11. April 4 Theory 4 – The Framing Approach and its Critics

Readings:

- Snow, David A., E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review* 51:464-481.
- Snow, David A. and Robert D. Benford. 1988. "Ideology, Frame Resonance, and Participant Mobilization." *International Social Movement Research* 1:197-217.
- Oliver, Pamela and Hank Johnston. 2000. "What a Good Idea: Frames and Ideologies in Social Movements." *Mobilization* 5:37-54.
- Snow, David A. and Robert D. Benford. 2000. "Clarifying the Relationship Between Framing and Ideology in the Study of Social Movements: A Comment on Oliver and Johnston." *Mobilization* 5:55-60.

**Friday, April 6: Paper #2 due by 5pm in my box (McGuinn 426)**

### 12. April 11 Theory 5 – Critiques of RM/PP and the "Cultural Turn" in Social Movement Theory

Readings:

- Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 1995. "Collective Protest: A Critique of Resource-Mobilization Theory" in *Social Movements: Critiques, Concepts, Case Studies*. ed. Stanford M Lyman. New York: NYU Press.
- Mayer, Margit. 1995. "Social Movement Research in the United States: A European Perspective" in *Social Movements: Critiques, Concepts, Case Studies*. Stanford M Lyman, ed. New York: NYU Press.
- Francesca Polletta. 1997. "Culture and Its Discontents: Recent Theorizing on the Cultural Dimensions of Protest." *Sociological Inquiry* 67:431-450.
- Goodwin, Jeff and James M. Jasper. 1999. "Caught in a Winding, Snarling Vine: the Structural Bias of Political Process Theory." *Sociological Forum* 14(1):27-54.

### 13. April 18      **Collective Identity and "Free Space"**

Readings:

- Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier. 1992. "Collective Identity in Social Movement Organizations: Lesbian Feminist Mobilization" in *Frontiers in Social Movement Theory*.
- Melucci, Alberto. 1995. "The Process of Collective Identity." in *Social Movements and Culture*. Johnston and Klandermans, eds. Minneapolis, MN: Univ. of Minnesota Press. pp.41-63.
- Polletta, Francesca and James M. Jasper. 2001. "Collective Identity and Social Movements." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27:283-305.
- Leach, Darcy and Sebastian Haunss. 2006. "Scenes and Social Movements" Unpublished manuscript.

### 14. April 25      **The Global Justice Movement**

Readings:

- D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn. 2006. *Globalization: the Transformation of Social Worlds*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. From Chapter 4, "The ABCs of the Global Economy" pp.82-92 (10 pgs)
- Epstein, Barbara. 2001. "Anarchism and the Anti-Globalization Movement." *Monthly Review* 53(4):1-14. (13 pgs)

Film:      "The Corporation" "The Fourth World War"

### 15. May 2      **The Global Justice Movement, cont'd.**

Readings:

- Epstein, Barbara. 2002. "Feminist Consciousness after the Women's Movement" *Monthly Review* 54(4):31-37. (6 pgs)
- Polletta, Francesca. 2001. "'This is What Democracy Looks Like' A Conversation with Direct Action Network Activists David Graeber, Brooke Lehman, Jose Lugo, and Heremy Varon." *Social Policy* 31:25-30.
- Jackie Smith. 2001. "Globalizing Resistance: The Battle of Seattle and the Future of Social Movements." *Mobilization* 6:1-19.

Possible Films: Activist videos from Genoa, Seattle & Prague, “This is What Democracy Looks Like,” Dieter Rucht’s film on Puerto Alegre...?

**Monday, May 7:**      **Final Paper Due by 5:00 pm in my box (McGuinn 426).**