

SC355 F07: Social Movement Theory and Practice

Mondays, 3-5:20, Carney Hall 104

Professor:	Darcy Leach	Office:	412 McGuinn
Phone:	617-552-8148 (office)	Office Hours:	Wed. 3-5 or by appt.
Email:	leachd@bc.edu		
Graduate Asst:	Erin Balleine	Office:	
Email:	balleine@bc.edu	Office Hours:	

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). The final paper can be either a third iteration of the first two papers or a critical reflection on the development of your thinking over the course of the semester. If you choose the former option, you should draw on all of the material covered in the course and incorporate the experiences of one movement from weeks 1-7, one from weeks 8-10, and one from weeks 11-14. How has activism changed in that time? What have we learned and what do we still need to learn? Papers due 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 often 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 your responsibility to understand and adhere to the accepted norms of intellectual honesty in your academic work. Any form of cheating, plagiarism, dishonesty, or collusion in another's dishonesty is a fundamental violation of these norms and will be handled through the formal disciplinary procedures laid out by the College. To see the College's policies in this area go to: <http://www.bc.edu/integrity>. This includes proper citation of sources. Two good resources 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 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:

- Hayden, Tom. *Reunion: A Memoir*. (selections compiled in coursepack form)
- Foner, Philip S., ed. 2002. *The Black Panthers Speak*, 2nd Ed. Da Capo Press.
- Berger, Dan. 2006. *Outlaws of America: The Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity*. Oakland, CA: AK Press.
- 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*.
- Starr, Amory. 2005. *Global Revolt: A Guide to the Movements against Globalization*. Zed Books

These books are available at the Bookstore and on reserve at O’Niell Library. 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. September 10 Introduction

2. September 17 Theory 1 – Collective Behavior & Early Resource Mobilization

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

3. September 24 Theory 2 –Political Process, Political Opportunity, and Other Structuralist Critiques of RM Theory

- 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.
- Kitschelt, Herbert. 1986. “Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies” *British Journal of Political Science* 16: 57-85.
- Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. 1991. “Collective Protest: A Critique of Resource-Mobilization Theory” *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 4(4):435-58.

4. October 1 The Rise of Students for a Democratic Society

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

Film: “Berkeley in the Sixties” or “Rebels with a Cause”

October 8 Columbus Day. No Classes.

5. October 15 1968, the End of SDS, and the Birth of the Weatherman

- 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. October 22 The “Bad Sixties?” The Black Panther Party and the WUO

- selections from *The Black Panthers Speak*
- 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.

Film: “The Weather Underground”

7. October 29 Cointelpro: State Repression of SDS, the Panthers, and AIM

- 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.

Film: clips from “What We Want, What We Believe: The Black Panther Party Library”

Friday, November 2: Paper #1 due by 5pm in my faculty mailbox (McGuinn 426)

8. November 5 Theory 3 – New Social Movement Theory

- 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.
- 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.

9. November 12 “Second Wave” Feminism: the New Women’s Movement

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

10. November 19 Environmental Movement

- Epstein, Barbara. *Political Protest & Cultural Revolution: Nonviolent Direct Action in the 1970s and 1980s*. Selections.
- panagioti. "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.

Film: "Ausgestrahlt" (on German blockade of nuclear waste transport, 1997)

Friday, November 23: Paper #2 due by 5pm in my faculty mailbox (McGuinn 426)

11. November 26 Theory 4 – The "Cultural Turn" in Social Movement Theory: Framing, Collective Identity, and "Free Space"

- 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.
- Snow, David A. and Robert D. Benford. 1988. "Ideology, Frame Resonance, and Participant Mobilization." *International Social Movement Research* 1:197-217.
- Ryan, Charlotte; Gamson, William A. 2006. "The Art of Reframing Political Debates" *Contexts* 5(1):13-18.
- 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.
- Futrell, Robert & Pete Simi. 2004. "Free Spaces, Collective Identity, and the Persistence of U.S. White Power Activism" *Social Problems* 51(1):16-42.

12. December 3 The Global Justice Movement: What it is, Where it Came From

- 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.
- Starr, Amory. 2005. *Global Revolt: A Guide to the Movements Against Globalization*. New York: Zed Books. Chapter 2. "It Didn't Start in Seattle and it Didn't Stop on 9/11" pp.19-42; Chapter 3. "Participatory Democracy: the World Social Forum." pp.47-52; Chapter 9. "Solidarité and Specificismo: we are going to work together." pp.87-99; and from Part IV. "Tactics" pp.174-183; 196-203; 210-245; 253-258.
- World Social Forum Charter of Principles. http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Charter_of_Principles_%28World_Social_Forum%29

- 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.

Film: "The Fourth World War"

13. December 10 The Global Justice Movement: Tensions, Issues, Internal Debates

- Klein, Naomi. 2003. "What Happened to the New Left? The Hijacking of the WSF" <http://www.nadir.org/nadir/initiativ/agp/free/wsf/naomiklein.htm>
- Wong, Kristine. 2004. "Shutting Us Out: Race, Class, and the Framing of a Movement." pp.204-214 in *Confronting Capitalism: Dispatches From a Global Movement*, Eddie Yuen, Daniel Burton-Rose, and George Katsiaficas (eds.). Brooklyn, NY: Soft Skull Press.
- Starr, Amory. 2005. *Global Revolt*. Chapter 12. "Back in Black: Anarchism and Autonomy" and Chapter 13. "Violence: Spikey vs. Fluffy" pp.115-138.
- Churchill, Ward. 1998 [1986]. "Pacifism as Pathology: Notes on an American Pseudopraxis" in *Pacifism as Pathology: Reflections on the Role of Armed Struggle in North America*, Ward Churchill and Mike Ryan. Arbeiter Ring Publishing. pp. 29-130.
- Lakey, George. 2001. "Nonviolent Action as the Sword that Heals: Challenging Ward Churchill's 'Pacifism As Pathology'" Download from TrainingforChange.Org: <http://trainingforchange.org/content/view/131/53/>
- Arundhati Roy. 2003. "Confronting Empire." <http://www.nadir.org/nadir/initiativ/agp/free/wsf/albertroy.htm#roy>

For Further Reading:

- Postings on the Anti-G8 group Dissent!'s Info-group website in english debating the use of violent tactics during the G8 protests: <http://gipfelsoli.org/Multilanguage/English/981.html>
- *News from the Fields and Beyond*, Dissent! Newsletter, Extra Issue, "thoughts for global anti-G8 actions" March 2007.
- Cavanagh, John and Jerry Mander, eds. 2004. *Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. Chapter 11. "Global to Local: What You Can Do" pp.333-346. (13 pgs)

Films: Clips from Seattle (1999), Prague (2001), Genoa (2001), and "Breaking the Spell"; photos from Heiligendamm (2007)

Monday, December 17: Final Paper Due by 9:00 am in my faculty mailbox.