

Politics of Social Movements

Fall 2009

POL 40920-001

Class Time: T,TH 9:15-10:30am
Classroom: Bowman 301

Professor: Joshua Stacher
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Office Hours: T 10:30am-1:30pm
Th 10:30am -12:30pm

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Introduction:

When state institutions or social norms are unresponsive to the demands of discontented segments of society, movements develop to resist the prevailing order. The movements' aims are always the same: to change the status quo. This course focuses on four case areas to examine such social moments. The areas include: The Civil Rights movement, labor movement, lesbian & gay activism, and Islamist movements. We consider important themes such as shifts in social and historical structures, cultural framing, and the struggle to win civil and political rights. The goal will be to extract theories of social movements from the cases. We will particularly focus our attention on the process of "being included" as well as consider which groups remain excluded and why. To achieve our aims, this course considers three American and one Middle Eastern example. This encourages explicit cross-regional and comparative thinking about the politics of social movements.

Central themes that we will address are:

- 1) Theoretical Concepts
- 2) The Different Types of Social Movements (SM)
- 3) Similarities and Differences between SM
- 4) Democratic and Authoritarian States and Social Movements
- 5) The Role of Culture and Historical Context
- 6) Political Development
- 7) Policy Making Processes regarding SM

Requirements

Attendance: The College of Arts and Sciences **requires** that its professors take attendance. Since a close reading of the material is a necessity, attendance is **mandatory** and accounts for **10-percent** of your grade. Given that my presentations will complement and supplement the assigned reading, you will miss a great deal if you are absent. Only reading the text and/or relying on my lectures will not be enough. Attendance is also mandatory for all exams & quizzes. Make-ups will only be given in emergency situations on a case-by-case basis.

During class meetings, the instructor will introduce the scheduled topic and indicate how it relates to the overall course objectives. The remainder of each class is more interactive and requires active and informed student participation. As such, it is imperative that students read the set texts closely to prepare

for focused discussion. The success of this course is dependent on everyone's attendance and thoughtful contributions. As such, **10-percent** of your grade will be dependent on the quality of your contributions.

Quizzes: There will be **TWO** quizzes in this course. The first quiz will consist of short define and identification of terminology essential to demonstrating a theoretical and historical understanding of Social Movements. The second quiz will test your knowledge of the literature that we are reading in class. The character of an individual quiz will be detailed with sufficient preparation time before the exercise. No make-up quizzes will be given so it is imperative that you are present for the quizzes on the scheduled days. Each quiz will be **10-percent** of your grade (**20-percent total**).

Midterm Exam: A midterm exam, which consists of **25-percent** of your grade, will be given on **Thursday October 29th** between 915-1030am. A handout will be circulated in the weeks prior to the exam that lists possible questions. I will select a handful of those questions from which you will choose two to answer in essay format.

Term-Paper: You are **required** to submit a 18-20 page (double-spaced, 1"-margins, Times New Roman Font, 12-point) on a topic of your choosing that carefully examines a social movement. You may choose from the cases we evaluate in class or select another movement or group that interests you. The expectation for the paper is that you will provide a theoretical background of Social Movements as well as apply theory to your case. Therefore, you are required to show a theoretical and practical understanding of Social Movements. Feel free to consult with me about your topics. I recommend not waiting until the last minute. High quality papers require time and preparation. The paper will account for **35-percent** of your grade is due on the final day of class, which is **Thursday December 10th**. There will be no exceptions or extensions granted.

Extra Credit: Students that wish to improve their grade in their course can attend social movement related campus activities (speakers, conferences, or outside meetings etc.) during the semester. To get credit, you must produce a 2-page response to the event. Each two-page response will be counted as 1-percent of the course's overall grade. You can only improve your grade by 5-percent overall throughout the semester.

Evaluation & Assessment:

This course's assessment will be distributed accordingly:

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|-------------------|--|
| 1) Attendance: | 20-percent (10-percent attendance, 10-percent participation) |
| 2) Quizzes: | 20-percent (10% each) |
| 3) Mid-Term Exam: | 25-percent |
| 4) Term Paper: | 35-percent |

GRADING Scale:

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69, D: 60-66

F: Below 60

Required Texts: (Available at KSU Student Center Bookstore, Dubois & Campus Supply)

- 1) Charles Tilly & Lesley Wood, *Social Movements 1768-2008 2nd Edition*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 2009.
- 2) Frances Fox Piven & Richard Cloward, *Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed and How They Fail*. New York: Vintage Books, 1977.
- 3) Doug McAdam, *Freedom Summer*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- 4) Tina Fetner, *How The Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.
- 5) Quintan Wiktorowicz (editor), *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004

Notes & Disclaimers:

- 1) Help: If you are having problems with this course, the readings, or the evaluations I urge you to come to my office hours. If those times are not convenient for you, please call my office (330-672-8922) or email me (jstacher@kent.edu) and I will gladly schedule an appointment to suit your schedule. Whatever you do, **DO NOT** wait until it is too late to get help from the professor.
- 2) Decorum: Everyone is entitled to say whatever they wish in the classroom. However, the central aspect to being able to be informed and critical thinking students requires a welcoming and civilized forum. The instructor will not tolerate insulting or intimidating statements or behavior towards your fellow colleagues in class.
- 3) Registration Requirement
The official registration deadline for this course is September 13, 2009. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. The last day to withdraw is November 8, 2009.
- 4) Student Accessibility Policy
University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. **Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services** (contact 330-672-3391 or visit <<http://www.kent.edu/sas>> for more information on registration procedures).
- 5) Student Cheating and Plagiarism
Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

Condensed Version

"Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;
3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;
5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
6. Falsifying experimental data or information;
7. Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;
8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;
9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and
10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

"Plagiarize" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

- a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;
- b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and
- c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

Academic Sanctions

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The

following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or
2. Assign a grade of "F" or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or
3. Assign a grade of "F" for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;
4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.

Academic Appeals

The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates.

Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

- a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable,
- b. The decision resulted from a procedural error,
- c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented,
- d. New information is available which may suggest modification of the decision.

For complete policy and procedure go to <http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm>

Course & Reading Schedule

Tu 9/01 Class 1: No Class - The instructor will be attending an off-campus workshop
Th 9/03 Class 2: Syllabus distribution and course introduction

What are Social Movements: Theoretical and Historical Considerations

Tu 9/08 Class 3: "Social Movements as Politics," Tilly & Wood, pgs. 1-37
Th 9/10 Class 4: "19th Century Incarnations," Tilly & Wood, pgs. 38-64.
Tu 9/15 Class 5: "20th & 21st Century and SM," Tilly & Wood, pgs. 65-122.
Th 9/17 Class 6: "SM & Democratization," Tilly & Wood, pgs.123-157
Tu 9/22 Class 7: **Quiz ONE**
 Wrap up Tilly and Introduce Cases

Labor & Disenfranchised Citizens

Th 9/24 Class 8: Poor People's Movements (PPM), chapter 1 (pgs. 1-40)
Tu 9/29 Class 9: PPM, Chapter 2 (pgs. 41-95)
Th 10/01 Class 10: PPM, Chapter 3 (pgs. 96-180)
Tu 10/06 Class 11: PPM, Chapter 4 (pgs. 181-263)

Th 10/08 Class 12: PPM, Chapter 5 (pgs. 264-359)

Civil Rights Movement

Tu 10/13 Class 13: Freedom Summer (FS), Chapters 1 & 2 (pgs. 3-65)

Th 10/15 Class 14: FS, Chapter 3 (pgs. 66-115)

Tu 10/20 Class 15: FS, Chapter 4 (pgs. 116-160)

Th 10/22 Class 16: FS, Chapter 5 (pgs. 161-198)

Tu 10/27 Class 17: FS, Chapter 6 & Epilogue (pgs. 200-240)

Th 10/29 Class 18: **Mid-Term Examination**

Lesbian & Gay Activism

Tu 11/03 Class 19: Fetner, Chapters 1 & 2 (pgs. 1-43)

Th 11/05 Class 20: Fetner, Chapters 3 & 4 (pgs. 44-83)

Tu 11/10 Class 21: Fetner, Chapters 5 & 6 (pgs. 84-118)

Th 11/12 Class 22: Fetner, Chapter 7, (pgs 119-130)

Islamist Movements

Tu 11/17 Class 23: Islamic Activism (IA), Introduction (pgs. 1-37)

Th 11/19 Class 24: IA, Egypt, Chapter 2 (pgs 61-88)

Tu 11/24 Class 25: IA, Hamas, Chapter 4, (pgs. 112-139)

Th 11/26 No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Tu 12/01 Class 26: IA, Islamist Social Networks & the Case of Iran, Chapters 5 & 7, (pgs. 143-163 & 185-204)

Th 12/03 Class 27: IA, Culture and Islamist Movements, Chapter 9 & Conclusion, (pgs. 231-249 & 289-298)

Tu 12/08 Class 28: **Quiz Two**

Th 12/10 Class 29: **Term Papers Due**
Concluding Remarks

Good Luck this Semester!