

## **SOCI V3235. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

Fall 2007  
MW 2:40pm-3:55pm  
805 Altschul Hall

Prof. Debra Minkoff  
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Office hours: Tues 2-4pm or by appointment

Social movements are sustained challenges against authorities that aim at reforming or revolutionizing dominant institutions, changing public opinion, or transforming personal behavior. This course will provide an introduction to theory and research on one form of social movement: national-level collective mobilizations that are organized for political change. The emphasis is on how political, organizational, and cultural factors shape social movement emergence and development. We will focus on contemporary American activism, including case studies of the civil rights movement, the new Left student movement, the contemporary women's movement, the abortion conflict, gay/lesbian activism, and more recent forms of activism.

Assigned readings will set the context for the lectures and serve as the basis for in-class discussion. *You are expected to do the readings for the assigned dates.*

### **Course Requirements**

(1) Mid-term exam (30% of final grade); (2) Paper (12-15 pp; 25%); (3) Final exam (40%); (4) attendance/class participation (5%).

*You cannot pass this course without completing all of the requirements.*

### **Required Readings**

The following books can be purchased at Book Culture (formerly Labyrinth Books) at 536 W. 112<sup>th</sup> St.) and are on Barnard Library reserve:

Elizabeth Armstrong, Forging Gay Identities (Chicago, 2002)  
Todd Gitlin, The Whole World is Watching, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (California, 2003)  
Kristin Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood (California, 1984)  
Doug McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Chicago, 1999)

All other articles and book chapters are accessible through CourseWorks or can be purchased as a reader at Columbia Copy Shop, 2790 Broadway (btwn 107<sup>th</sup> & 108<sup>th</sup>).

## Course Outline

### Introduction

#### Week 1

Sept 5           **Why Study Social Movements?**

#### Week 2

Sept 10 &       **Grievances, Resources and Politics**  
Sept 12

Francis Piven and Richard Cloward, Poor People's Movements (Pantheon, 1977).  
Ch. 1, "The Structuring of Protest."  
Erich Hirsch, "Sacrifice for the Cause: Group Processes, Recruitment, and  
Commitment in a Student Social Movement." American Sociological Review  
55(1990): 243-254.

### Cases/Dynamics

#### **Civil Rights Movement: Emergence and Development**

#### Week 3

Sept 17           Context

Doug McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
ed. (Chicago, 1999). Chs. 3-5.

Sept 19           Emergence

McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, Ch. 6.  
Aldon Morris, "Black Southern Student Sit-In Movement: An Analysis of  
Internal Organization." American Sociological Review 46(1981): 744-67.

#### Week 4

Sept 24           Dynamics

McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, Ch. 7.  
Aldon Morris, "Birmingham Confrontation Reconsidered." American  
Sociological Review 58(1993): 621-636.

#### **Civil Rights Movement: Decline and Impact**

Sept 26

McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, Ch. 8.

#### Week 5

Oct 1            Initiating the 1960s "Cycle of Protest"

Doug McAdam, Freedom Summer (Oxford, 1988). Prologue, Ch. 5.

#### **New Left Student Movement: The Media and Movements**

Oct 3            Framing the New Left

Todd Gitlin, The Whole World is Watching (California, 1980). Intro, Chs. 1-3.

## **Week 6**

Oct 8            Visibility and Vulnerabilities

Gitlin, The Whole World is Watching. Chs. 4-7.

Wini Breines, "Community and Organization: The New Left and Michels' 'Iron Law'." Social Problems 27(1980): 419-429.

### **Feminist Movement: Continuity and Change**

Oct 10            Something Borrowed, Something New?

Verta Taylor, "Social Movement Continuity: The Women's Movement in Abeyance." American Sociological Review 54(1998): 761-775.

Jo Freeman, "The Origins of the Women's Liberation Movement." American Journal of Sociology 78(1973): 792-811.

## **Week 7**

Oct 15            Organizational Decisions/Dilemmas

Suzanne Staggenborg, "Stability and Innovation in the Women's Movement: A Comparison of Two Movement Organizations." Social Problems 36(1989): 75-92.

Francesca Polletta, "Friendship and Equality in the Women's Liberation Movement." Ch. 6 in Freedom is an Endless Meeting (Chicago, 2002).

Oct 17            Transformation and Impact

Nancy Whittier, "Political Generations, Micro-Cohorts, and the Transformation of Social Movements." American Sociological Review 62(1997): 760-778.

David Meyer and Nancy Whittier, "Social Movement Spillover." Social Problems 41(1994): 277-298.

## **Week 8**

Oct 22            Summary/Review

Oct 24            \* \* \* MID-TERM EXAM \* \* \*

### **Abortion Conflict: Movement/Countermovement Dynamics**

## **Week 9**

Oct 29            Context and Conflict

Kristen Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood (California, 1984). Chs. 3, 5-6.

Suzanne Staggenborg, "The Survival of the Pro-Choice Movement." Journal of Policy History 7(1995): 160-176.

Oct 31            Competing Worldviews

Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood. Chs. 7-9, Appendix 1.

Suzanne Staggenborg, "Life-Style Preferences and Social Movement Recruitment: Illustrations from the Abortion Conflict." Social Science Quarterly 68(1987): 779-797.

**Week 10**

Nov 5 NO CLASS

**Motivating Participants and Issues**

Nov 7 Recruitment to Activism

James Jasper and Jane Poulson, "Recruiting Strangers and Friends: Moral Shocks and Social Networks in Animal Rights and Anti-Nuclear Protests." Social Problems 42(1995): 493-512.

Sharon Erickson Nepstad and Christian Smith, "The Social Structure of Moral Outrage in Recruitment to the U.S. Central American Peace Movement." Ch. 9 in J. Goodwin, et. al., eds. Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements (Chicago, 2001)

**Week 11**

Nov 12 Strategic Framing

Christian Smith, "Fighting Battles of Public Discourse." Ch. 9 in C. Smith, Resisting Reagan: The U.S. Central America Peace Movement (Chicago, 1996).

**Gay/Lesbian Movement: Identity and Organization**

Nov 14 Political Logics and Organization-Building

Elizabeth Armstrong, Forging Gay Identities (Chicago, 2002). Chs. 1-5.

**Week 12**

Nov 19 Implications

E. Armstrong, Forging Gay Identities. Chs. 6-9.

**Activism Today**

Nov 21

FILM SCREENING: "*This is what democracy looks like*"

**Week 13**

Nov 26 **Globalization and Transnational Social Movements**

Jackie Smith, "Exploring Connections Between Global Integration and Political Mobilization." Journal of World-Systems Research 10(2004): 255-285.

Jeffrey Ayres, "From the Streets to the Internet: The Cyber-Diffusion of Contention." ANNALS 566(1999): 132-143.

Nov 28           **The Global Justice Movement**

Jeffrey M. Ayres, "Framing Collective Action Against Neoliberalism: The Case of the 'Anti-Globalization' Movement." Journal of World-Systems Research 10(2004): 11-34.

Lesley Wood, "Breaking the Bank & Taking to the Streets: How Protesters Target Neoliberalism." Journal of World-Systems Research 10(2004): 69-89.

Dana Fisher, et al., "How Do Organizations Matter? Mobilization and Support for Participants at Five Globalization Protests." Social Problems 52(2005): 102-121.

**Week 14**

Dec 3           **Mobilizing Against the War in Iraq**

David S. Meyer and Catherine Corrigan-Brown, "Coalitions and Political Context: U.S. Movements Against Wars in Iraq." Mobilization 10(2005): 327-346.

Dec 5           **Managing Dissent**

John McCarthy and Clark McPhail, "Places of Protest: The Public Forum Principle and Practice." Mobilization 11(2006): 229-247.

John Noakes, et al., "Whose Streets? Police and Protester Struggles Over Space in Washington, D.C. September 2001." Policing & Society 15(2005): 254.

Gwen Shaffer, "Treating Protesters Like Terrorists." The New Republic. July 22, 2004.

Jim Dwyer, "New York Police Covertly Join In at Protest Rallies." New York Times, December 22, 2005.

**Week 15**

Dec 10           **Prospects for Political Activism and Political Change**

David S. Meyer, "How Social Movements Matter." Contexts 2(2003): 30-35.

\* \* \* PAPERS DUE IN CLASS (no exceptions/extensions) \* \* \*

TBA           \* \* \* FINAL EXAM \* \* \*