

Social Movements and Collective Action

Sociology 424, Spring, 2010
Southern Illinois University
Dr. Darren E. Sherkat*
Communications 1020, 9am-950am MWF

Goals

This course will provide students with a contemporary theoretical background on social movements--- focusing on issues of formation, growth, continuity, success, opposition, and environment. Additionally, we will examine a variety of substantive examples from the current sociological literature. First, we will review general theories, beginning with a brief overview of theorizing but moving quickly through more relevant perspectives that guide contemporary research, rational actor theories, frame alignment theories, structuration theory, and issues of narratives, identities, and emotions.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to complete a take home examination on contemporary sociological theories of social movements. The exam will consist of several directed questions that must be answered in 4-6 typed pages (approx 12-15 page total length). Students are also required to complete short papers (7-9 pages, double-spaced) on two of four substantive sections of the course, answering a directed question about sets of readings. In addition, students must write a final paper (15-25 pages, typed, double-spaced) discussing applying sociological theory to a substantive case in social movements, or reviewing a specified body of substantive research of theory. **Topics must be cleared with me no later than March 6.** The examination and the two short papers are given equal weight, and will comprise 3/4ths of the grade for the course. The final paper counts for the remaining 1/4th of the grade. ***Late final papers will not be accepted.*** There will be no incompletes in this course without a Dean's level excuse for medical reasons.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Collaboration on the examination or on any of the papers will be considered cheating. All borrowed ideas should be cited appropriately, and direct quotations should be clearly demarcated with quotation marks. Failure to cite and use quotation marks is plagiarism, and will be reported to the honor council. I prefer the following style of citation at the end of a sentence containing borrowed ideas: (Finke and Stark, 1989:29 30). This reference should then be indicated in a bibliography, for example:

Finke, Roger, and Rodney Stark. 1989. "How the Upstart Sects Won America: 1776 1850."
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. 28:27 44.

Readings and Timetable

Social Movement Theory:

Rational Actor Perspectives

Hardin, Russell. 1980. *Collective Action*. Pp 6-89.

Iannaccone, Laurence R. 1994. "Why Strict Churches are Strong." *American Journal of Sociology*.

Resource Mobilization Theory

McCarthy, John D. and Mayer Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology*. 82:1212-1241.

Tilly, Charles. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution*, pp 52-142.

Olzak, Susan; Uhrig, S. C. Noah The Ecology of Tactical Overlap. *American Sociological Review*; 2001, 66, 5, Oct, 694-717.

Frame Analysis:

Snow, David, E. Burke Rochford, Steven Worden, and Robert Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review*. 51:464-481.

Benford, -Robert-D.; Snow, -David-A. Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment. *Annual Review of Sociology*; 2000, 26, 611-639.

Structuration theory

Sherkat, Darren E. and Christopher G. Ellison. 1997. "The Cognitive Structure of a Moral Crusade: Conservative Protestantism and Opposition to Pornography." *Social Forces*. 75:957 982

Sherkat, Darren E. and T. Jean Blocker. 1997. "Explaining the Political and Personal Consequences of Protest." *Social Forces*. 75:1049 1076.

Identities:

Bernstein, Mary. 1997. "Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement." *American Journal of Sociology*. 103:531-565.

Gamson, Joshua. 1995. "Must Identity Movements Self Destruct? A Queer Dilemma." *Social Problems*. 42:390-407.

Examination: Feb. ?

Substantive Areas:

Right Wing Movements:

Barkan, Michael. 1996. *Religion and the Racist Right*. University of North Carolina Press.

Civil Rights Movement in the US:

Morris, Aldon 1986. *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*. Free Press.

Feminist Movements in the US:

Whittier, Nancy. 1995. *Feminist Generations*. Temple University Press.

Religious Movements;

Rochford, E. Burke. 1986. *Hare Krishna in America*. Rutgers University Press.

Final Paper Due Weds May 12th.

Dr. Darren E. Sherkat (B.A. Tulsa, 1987; M.A. Duke, 1989; Ph.D. Duke, 1991), Professor of Sociology. Faner Hall, 3422. 453 7619. SHERKAT@SIU.EDU.

Office Hours: Tu-TH 9:00am-11:00am, or by appointment. My research focuses on micro level theories of social movement participation. Much of my work uses substantive examples from religious movements and the connection between religious movements and other social movements. Some of my social movements research includes: the political and individual bases of religious change in the Black Church; the ideological foundations of moral crusades against pornography and same sex marriage; ideological determinants of environmental activism, participation in protest movements of the 1960s; the consequences of participation in 1960s era protest movements, and the mobilization of sexuality groups in the U.S My recent articles appear in *Social Science Research, Research on Aging, Social Science Quarterly, and Sociological Spectrum*.