

Sociology 424: Social Movements
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Fall 2011

Professor Kelsy Kretschmer

Course Time: MWF 3:00pm – 3:50pm

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Location: Lawson Hall 0131

Office Location: Faner 3423

Office Hours: Monday 4-5pm, Tuesday 9am-noon, Wednesday 4-5pm, Friday 4-5pm

Course Description

Protest is as American as apple pie. Indeed, the United States was born as the result of a successful protest movement. The framers of the Constitution, mostly veterans of the Revolution, made sure to provide numerous avenues for political influence to both groups and individuals, at least partly to forestall future revolutionary movements. Yet, with increasing frequency, dissidents continue to protest outside political institutions. Change throughout United States history has generally come from protest movements operating outside (and sometimes within) the established political system. In order to understand the development of contemporary politics and policy, we need to look closely at this history and influence of these movements.

We will examine the emergence, development, and ultimate impact of protest movements on politics and policy in American politics. Through an examination of several movements in America, we will focus on three basic sets of questions: under what circumstances do dissident movements emerge?; how do dissidents choose political tactics and strategies?; and, how do movements influence more conventional politics? Students will gain a familiarity with current research on social protest movements, as well as the theories and methods scholars now use to examine movements.

Course Requirements

- Examinations: Students will take a mid-term and final examination, as scheduled below. I will provide additional information on these exams as they get closer. **Exams must be completed on the scheduled days; no make-up tests will be given. If you can't attend the scheduled examinations, it will be very difficult to pass the course.**

- Short papers: Students will submit two short papers (2 to 4 pages, typed double-spaced, 1 inch margins) using the course materials and theoretical issues discussed in class to examine a contemporary social movement. I will provide a hand out with additional guidelines in the weeks before the due date. In order to familiarize yourself with what movements are currently happening, it's a good idea to keep up with current events by reading a good daily newspaper. **Papers will lose a letter grade for each day they are late after the due date.**
- Discussion questions: Twice during the semester students will be scheduled to create discussion questions for their small group and also lead the discussion of that group. Please see the last page of this syllabus for the schedule sign-up sheet and further directions. Students will also turn in their discussion questions to me on the day of the discussion. **If you are absent on the day you are scheduled for leading discussion, you will forfeit all points. You may not turn the questions in to me unless present on your scheduled day.**

Final grades will be based on the percentages listed below. There is no extra credit offered in this course.

Short paper #1 (Wednesday, September 14):	10%
Short paper #2 (Wednesday, November 16):	10%
Discussion Questions (as scheduled):	10%
Discussion Questions (as scheduled):	10%
Midterm (Friday, October 14):	20%
<u>Final (Monday December 12, 8pm - 10pm):</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

Required Reading

Meyer, David. 2007. *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America*. Oxford University Press

Sitkoff, Harvard. 1995. *The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954-1992*. New York Hill and Wang

Zernike, Kate. 2010. *Boiling Mad: Inside Tea Party America*. Henry Holt & Co.

Emergency Procedures:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus and is available on the BERT website at <http://www.bert.siu.edu/>, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu/ (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Aug 22, 24, 26

Readings: Meyer Introduction and Ch 1; Sitkoff Ch 1

Week 2. Aug 29, 31, Sep 2

Readings: Meyer Ch.2; Sitkoff ch 2

Week 3. Sept 7, 9

Readings: Meyer Ch 3; Sitkoff Ch 3

Week 4. Sept 13, 14, 16 * Paper #1 Due Sep 14th*****

Readings: Meyer Ch 4; Sitkoff Ch 4

Week 5. Sept 19, 21, 23

Readings: Meyer Ch. 5; Sitkoff Ch 5

Week 6. Sep 26, 28, 30

Readings: Meyer Ch 6; Sitkoff Ch 6

Week 7. Oct 3, 5, 7

Readings: Meyer Ch 7; Sitkoff 7

Week 8. Oct 12, 14 * Midterm Oct 14*****

Readings: Meyer Ch 8; Sitkoff ch 8

Week 9. Oct 17, 19, 21

Readings Meyer Ch 9; Zernike Ch 1

Week 10. 24, 26, 28

Readings: Meyer Ch 10, Zernike Ch 2

Week 11. Oct 31, Nov 2, 4

Readings: Zernike Ch 3 &4

Week 12. Nov 7, 9

Readings: Zernike Ch 5

Week 13. Nov 14, 16, 18 *Paper #2 Due Nov 16*****

Readings: Zernike Ch 6

Week 14. Nov 21

Readings: Zernike Ch 7

Week 15. Nov 28, 30, Dec 2

Readings: Zernike Ch 8

Week 16. Dec 5, 7, 9

Readings: Zernike Ch 9

Final Exam: Monday December 12, 8:00pm to 10:00pm

Social Movements Discussion Group Schedule

Most Fridays will be devoted to small group discussion. We will divide our class into groups of five, and for each of the dates listed below, one member of each group will be responsible for creating three to five questions based on the course reading to bring in for discussion. The person who writes the questions will also be responsible for leading the discussion and (sometimes) reporting back to the larger class on the group discussion. Make sure to craft questions that can inspire significant discussion; questions that inspire a lot of conversation or controversy will make your job as discussion leader easier. **You will also turn in a copy of these questions to me; the quality of your questions will be considered as a part of your overall grade. If you are absent on your scheduled day, you will forfeit all of the points for this assignment.** In order to give you examples of the kind of questions I am looking for, I will create the questions for our first week (August 2).

In the following table, decide who in your group will be responsible for which days. You should each be scheduled for 2 days. Because we have eleven days to cover, your group will need to pick one day in which you each contribute a question for the discussion. Each of you should fill out the entire schedule for yourselves, and your group needs to make an additional copy of the group schedule for me.

Date	Name
September 2	
September 9	
September 16	
September 23	
September 30	
October 7	
October 21	
October 28	
November 4	
November 18	
Dec 2	