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Seminar/Discussion: **Faner 3410**
 THs, 2:00-4:20 PM
 Office Hours: Ws, 10:00AM-12:00 PM,
 1:00-3:00 PM
 THs, 10:00-12:00 PM,
 and by appointment

Social Movements

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a graduate course on social movements. It is intended to give students a broad understanding of social movement analysis and issues. As such the basic objectives of this course are to explore the ways in which social movements have been theorized and to consider some social movement cases.

We meet once a week. You are expected to keep up with the reading material. **Attendance at lectures, films, and special guest lectures (if scheduled) is required.**

Course Agenda

- To reflect on what constitutes a social movement
- To study the theoretical frameworks through which social scientists make sense of these socio-political phenomena
- To explore what makes social movements work, how these are sustained, and what curtails their development

Course Goals

- To critically appraise existing and rising paradigms in the study of Social Movements, including revolutions
- To reflect on some underexplored issues in the analysis of the politics of change

COURSE SCHEDULE

- First Day of Class: 1/17
- Last Day of Class: 5/02
- Final Exam Day: 5/09
- Number of Seminars: 16
- Number of Holidays: NA

TEXTS / READINGS

Required (Available at the University Bookstore and Reserve Room at the Morris Library)

- *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970 (PPDBI)* by Doug McAdam.
- *How Long? How Long?: African-American Women in the Struggle for Civil Rights (HLHL)* by Belinda Robnett.
- *It was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics (ILF)* by Francesca Polletta.
- *Silence and Voice in the Study of Contentious Politics (SVSCP)* by Ronald R. Aminzade et al.
- *Convictions of the Soul: Religion, Culture, and Agency in the Central America Solidarity Movement (CS)* by Sharon Erickson Nepstad
- *Moving Politics: Emotion and Act Up's Fight Against AIDS (MP)* by Deborah B. Gould.

Supplementary Readings (Available on D2L)

- Selections from *Social Movements: Perspectives and Issues* by Steven Buechler and F. Kurt Cylke, editors.
- Selection from *Social Movements, 1768-2004* by Charles Tilly
- Selection from *Making Sense of Social Movements* by Nick Crossley

- Selection from *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change* by Aldon Morris
- Selection from *New Social Movements: From Ideology to Identity*, Enrique Laraña, Hank Johnston, and Joseph R. Gusfield, editors.
- Selection from *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the late Modern Age* by Anthony Giddens
- Several Articles to be accessed Online.
- Other reading material, if necessary, will be made available during the term.

Recommended

- *Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements* by Jeff Goodwin, James Jasper, and Francesca Polletta, editors.
- *Emotions and Social Movements* by Helena Flam and Debra King.
- *Dynamics of Contention* by Doug McAdam, Sydney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly
- *Stories of Change: Narrative and Social Movements* by Joseph E. Davis, editor.
- *The Art of Moral Protest: Culture, Biography, and Creativity in Social Movements* by James Jasper.
- *Rethinking Social Movements: Structure, Meaning, and Emotion* by Jeff Goodwin and James Jasper, editors.
- *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions* by John Foran.
- *Revolution, rebellion, resistance: The power of story* by Eric Selbin.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Class Participation/Presentations

This course will be run as a graduate seminar, with full student participation and some lecturing by the instructor. You are required to engage in the careful reading / analysis of course material and to come prepared to have meaningful discussions on the issues and questions at stake in the various readings we will be covering. Students will be responsible for leading class discussion each week, starting on Week II.

30% of your grade will be based on your ***Class Participation/Presentations***.

II. Summary Briefs (SBs)

In addition to completing the assigned readings and presenting on these, you will be required to, you will be required to turn in **3 SBs** that "critically" assess assigned readings (on a book or 2 articles). Each **SB** counts **10** points each. You will have 4 chances to submit **SBs** (see Dues Dates below). The **SBs** should be at least **4** pages in length, double-space. Please number your **SBs** as you submit these (e.g., SB1, SB2, and SB3). Submit hard copies or via e-mail attachments on the Due Date.

SBs Due Dates: 2/15, 3/22, 4/19, + 4/26 (the last of day of class)

About **30%** of your grade will be based on your ***Summary Briefs***.

III. Final Paper (FP)

You will also be required to submit a Final Paper. This will entail writing a paper that explores social movement issues. This Final Paper may take one of the following forms:

- An extended **Review Essay** on one (or two) of the original books that we shall be reading
- A **Social Movement Paper** of your own making, related to course themes but specifically connected to a personal project.
- An extended **Review** of a Social Movement book from a list of titles that I can provide to you.
- A **Final Exam** on a question provided by me.

The **Final Paper** should be at least **10-15 pp.** in length.

FP Due Date: 5/09, the assigned Final Exam date for this course. The FP counts for 40% of your grade.

OUTLINE OF COURSE EXPLORATIONS

Points of Departures; What is a Social Movement?

(Week I, 1/17)

- “Social Movements as Politics” by Charles Tilly (from *Social Movements, 1768-2004*).
- “Introduction” by Nick Crossley (from *Making Sense of Social Movements*)

Classical Approaches

(Week II, 1/24)

- Selections from *Social Movements: Perspectives and Issues*:
 - “Elementary Collective Groupings” by Herbert Blumer
 - “The Politics of Mass Society” by William Kornhauser
 - “Explorations in the Theory of Social Movements and Revolutions” by James Geschwender
 - “The Norm-Oriented Movement” by Neil J. Smelser
- *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency (PPDBI), Chapter 1*

The Canon: Resource Mobilization and Political Process

(Week III, 1/31)

- Selection from *Social Movements: Perspectives and Issues*:
 - “Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory” by John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald
- *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency (PPDBI), Chapters 2-3*

(Week IV, 2/07)

- *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency (PPDBI), Chapters 4-9*

Some Responses to the Canon: Frame Theory, Dramaturgy, and New Social Movements, and Narrative

(Week V, 2/14)

- “Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation” by David A. Snow; E. Burke Rochford, Jr.; Steven K. Worden; Robert D. Benford, *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (Aug., 1986), pp. 464-481 (Available at [JSTOR](#)).
- “Dramaturgy and Social Movements: The Social Construction and Communication of Power” by Robert D. Benford, *Sociological Inquiry*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (February 1992), pp. 36-55 (Available at [GoogleScholar](#)).
- Selection from *Social Movements: Perspectives and Issues*:
 - “New Social Movements Theories” by Steven M. Buechler.
- “The Emergence of Life-Politics” by Anthony Giddens (from *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the late Modern Age*).

Another Response to the Canon: On the Significance of Narrative/Story

(Weeks VI & VII 2/21, 2/28)

- *It was Like a Fever (ILF)*, in its entirety

Social Movements: What makes them possible, what allows them to survive, what stops them

(Week VIII, 3/07)

- “Organizational Relationships: The SCLC, the NAACP, and CORE” by Aldon D. Morris (from *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change*).
- “Culture and Social Movements” by Doug McAdam. (From *New Social Movements: From Ideology and Identity*, Enrique Laraña, Hank Johnston, and Joseph R. Gusfield, editors).
- “Social Movement Continuity: The Women's Movement in Abeyance” by Vera Taylor, *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 54, No. 5 (October, 1989), pp. 761-775 (Available at **JSTOR**).
- *Silence and Voice in the Study of Contentious Politics (SVSCP)*, Chapter 5, “Leadership Dynamics and Dynamics of Contention” by Ron Aminzade, Jack Goldstone, and Elizabeth Perry.
- Selections from *Social Movements: Perspectives and Issues*:
 - “The Structuring of Protest” by Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward.
 - “External Efforts to Damage or Facilitate Social Movements: Some Patterns, Explanations, Outcomes and Complications Organizational Dynamics” by Gary T. Marx.

Yet Another Response to the Cannon: Women Leaders and their role in Organizations in the Civil Rights Movement

(Weeks IX & X, 3/14, 3/21)

- *How Long? How Long? (HLHL)*, in its entirety

On Culture and Agency: The Central American Solidarity Movement, a Transnational Case

(Week XI, 3/28)

- *Convictions of the Soul (CS)*, Chapters 1-8

Considering Some Underexplored Issues in Social Movement Theory

(Week XII, 4/04)

- *Silence and Voice in the Study of Contentious Politics (SVSCP)*:
 - Chapter 2, “Emotions and Contentious Politics” by Ron Aminzade and Doug McAdam
 - Chapter 3, “Space in Contentious Politics” by William H. Sewell, Jr.
 - Chapter 4, “It is about Time: Temporality in the Study of Social Movements and Revolutions” by Doug McAdam and William H. Sewell, Jr.
 - Chapter 6, “The Sacred, Religious, and Secular in Contentious Politics: Blurring the Boundaries” by Ron Aminzade and Elizabeth Perry.

On Emotions, Agency, and the Politics of Aids Activism

(Week XIII, XIV, & XV, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25)

- *Moving Politics (MP)*, Intro through chapter 6

Revolutions

(Week XVI 5/02)

- “Symbols, Positions, Objects: Toward a New Theory of Revolutions and Collective Action” by Mustafa Emirbayer and Jeff Goodwin, *History and Theory: Studies in the Philosophy of History* (1996) 35(3): 358-374. (Available at **JSTOR**).

- “Theorizing Revolutions” by John Foran, in *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions* (2005). (To be Made Available on D2L)

A COMMENTARY ON OFFICE HOURS SESSIONS

“Dialogue with the people is radically necessary to every authentic revolution.”

Paulo Freire

I encourage you to attend office hours. I am available to address any concerns or issues connected to your academic experience. Please feel free to talk to me about the subject matter or assignment strategies. You will do well in this course if you are prepared to study hard. Taking advantage of a more “accessible” setting may help your learning efforts. I am available to see you one-on-one in order to address your issues, questions, concerns, ideas, or discoveries. I am interested in your reactions, responses, views, or perceptions. Part of the learning process requires meaningful dialogue between the professor and the student. Therefore, your individual feedback is important and your thoughts, ideas, perceptions, concerns, questions, or doubts are essential to the learning process itself.