

COLLECTIVE ACTION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND GLOBALIZATION

CONF 739 01

Spring 2006

Tuesdays, 7:20 pm -10:00 pm

Truland Building, Room 666A

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Office hours by appointment

Welcome to the course. This course will explore how people translate their underlying grievances into collective action. It will examine how groups organize, frame and develop strategies and tactics to pursue their agendas and how the processes of globalization have influenced social movement dynamics.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation

The emphasis in this class will be on an intellectual give and take between all of us. This means that our meetings will be in the form of a seminar rather than a lecture. This of course places much responsibility on your shoulders and requires you to be responsible for doing all the readings prior to class and actively participating in class discussions. The success of the course thus depends on you coming to the seminar prepared. You will also be expected to participate in both student presentation sessions: during one as a presenter; during the other as an attentive and inquisitive audience member. Discussion participation will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Participation grades will be based on frequency and quality of your involvement each week. You do not need to have something to say on every topic that comes up in discussion but rather should participate in a way that promotes and deepens the discussion. In evaluating participation, I will look for evidence that you have done the readings with sufficient attention and care and have thought about them. I therefore expect from you more than a summary of what you have read. I expect that you will be able to offer opinions on an author's argument. You should come to our meetings ready to answer such questions as: Do you find the authors' arguments convincing? If so, why? If not, why not? Are they clearly presented? Do you find the use of evidence satisfying? Do you think the arguments work best for some cases but are less convincing for other cases?

If you can demonstrate that you know what you have read, have thought about it, and can articulate an opinion on it, you have nothing to worry about.

Short Papers

In addition to active participation in class discussions you will be required to write 4 four-page papers. These papers should be a critical assessment of a particular week's assigned readings

and not just summaries. While you have a choice of which weeks you want to write your papers, you must write two papers for each of the two parts of the class. In these papers you should address such issues as what are the main arguments; are they convincing and why or why not; the limits of the arguments made; the causal logic/assumptions of the arguments, etc. The short papers will be due on the day when the readings will be discussed. Late papers will not be accepted. Each of these papers will be worth 10% of your final grade for a total of 40% of your final grade.

Research Paper

You will also write a 25 to 30-page research paper. The paper will examine a social movement or a campaign drawing on the theories we will be discussing during the semester. The paper topic will be chosen by you in consultation with me. A one-page paper proposal will be due on **March 28th**. The research paper will be due on the class exam date, **May 9th, at 7:30pm**. You can either e-mail me your paper or leave it in my mailbox at ICAR. **DO NOT PUT IT UNDER THE DOOR OF MY OFFICE**. The paper will worth 35% of your final grade. You will present the findings of your research in class. Your presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade. Late papers will not be accepted except under extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

The following books are available for purchase at the Arlington Campus Bookstore. All readings should be accessible through the GMU's library databases, e-reserves/reserves or through websites indicated on the syllabus.

Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, editors. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures and Cultural Framings*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996

Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement: Social Movements, Collective Action and Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. *Activists Beyond Border: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998

Sidney Tarrow, *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Valentine Moghadam, *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005

Clifford Bob, *The Marketing of Rebellion: Insurgents, Media and International Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Mary Kaldor, *Global Civil Society: An Answer to War*. Cambridge: Polity, 2003.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

January 24

Introduction

Part I: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

January 31: Collective Action and Contentious Politics

Mancur Olson. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*, pp. 5-22 and 60-65 (e-reserves)

Charles Tilly. *From Mobilization to Revolution*, pp. 12-49 (e-reserves)

Mark Lichbach. *The Rebels Dilemma*, chapters 1, 2 (e-reserves)

Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, chapters 3, 4

February 7: Political Opportunities and Constraints

Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, chapter 5

Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements, chapter 3

Marysa Navarro, "The Personal is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo," in *Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements* (e-reserves)

Charles D. Brockett, "The Structure of Political Opportunities and Peasant Mobilization in Central America," *Comparative Politics*, vol. 23, no. 3, 1991 (e-journals)

February 14: Mobilizing Structures

Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, chapter 8

Aldon Morris, "Black Student Sit-In Movement: An Analysis of Internal Organization," *American Sociological Review*, vol. 46, no. 6, December 1981, (e-journals)

Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements, chapters 6-8

February 21: Framing Contention

Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, chapter 7

Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements, chapters 11-15

Rhys Williams, “From the ‘Beloved Community’ to ‘Family Values’: Religious Language, Symbolic Repertoires, and Democratic Culture,” in David S. Meyer, Nancy Whittier and Belinda Robnett, editors. *Social Movements, Identity, Culture, and the State* (e-reserves)

February 28: Cycles of Protest

Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, chapters 2, 9,10

Donatella della Porta and Mario Diani. *Social Movements: An Introduction*, chapter 7 (e-reserves)

Part II: GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

March 7: Transnational Networks

Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998

March 14 – No class – Have a Good Spring Break!

March 21: Transnational Activism

Sidney Tarrow, *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005

March 28: Transnational Feminist Networks

One-page outline of research paper due

Valentine Moghadam, *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005

April 4: Attracting International Attention

Clifford Bob, *The Marketing of Rebellion: Insurgents, Media and International Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Alison Brysk, “Turning Weakness into Strength: the Internationalization of Indian Rights,” *Latin American Perspectives*, 23 (2), 1996 (e-journals)

April 11: Global Civil Society and Peace

Mary Kaldor, *Global Civil Society: An Answer to War*. Cambridge: Polity, 2003.

Fiona B. Adamson, "Globalisation, Transnational Political Mobilisation, and Networks of Violence," *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, volume 18, no. 1, April 2005 (e-journals)

April 18: Protesting Neoliberal International Order

Franklin Daniel Rothman and Pamela E. Oliver, "From Local to Global: The Anti-Dam Movement in Southern Brazil 1979-1992," in Jackie Smith and Hank Johnson editors. *Globalization and Resistance: Transnational Dimensions of Social Movements* (e-reserves)

Jackie Smith, "Bridging Global Divides? Strategic Framing and Solidarity in Transnational Social Movement Organization," *International Sociology*, 17 (4), 2002 (e-reserves)

Jeffrey M. Ayres, "Framing Collective Action Against Neoliberalism: The Case of the 'Anti-Globalization Movement,'" *Journal of World-Systems Research*, X, I, Winter 2004 (<http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/vol10/number1/pdf/jwsr-v10n1-ayres.pdf>)

Leslie J. Wood, "Breaking the Bank and Taking to the Streets: How Protesters Target Neoliberalism," *Journal of World-Systems Research*, X, I, Winter 2004 (<http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/vol10/number1/pdf/jwsr-v10n1-wood.pdf>)

April 25: Student Presentations

May 2: Student Presentations

RESEARCH PAPER DUE MAY 9th at 7:30 pm