

CONF 695 Section 005: Theories of Contentious Politics

Semester: Spring 2017
 Class Time: Tuesday, 7:20 to 10:00
 Classroom: Founders Hall 476
 Instructor: Terrence Lyons
 703/993-1336
 tlyons1@gmu.edu

Welcome to the course. This graduate seminar will engage with a particular type of conflict known as contentious politics or collective political struggle. This encompasses a range of social movements, including such episodes as the civil rights and other non-violent social movements, riots and strikes, coup attempts, fraudulent elections, and massive human rights violations, civil wars, genocides, revolutions, and other forms of organized political violence. In the world today we see contentious politics and collective political struggles in the Black Lives Matter movement, popular uprisings in Ethiopia, as well as civil wars in Syria and political violence in places like Burundi and Pakistan.

Requirements. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

	Percentage	Due Date
Participation	10 percent	Throughout semester
Four analytical essays 4 x 10 percent	40 percent	Throughout semester
Research paper - including abstract and bibliography	40 percent	16 May 2017
Research paper presentation	10 percent	April/May TBD

Short Analytical Essays: Due various weeks. You will write four short (3-4 page, 750-1000 word) papers analyzing a particular week's readings. Week 3 and 10 are the exceptions and no essays will be accepted for the weeks we view videos. The essay is due before the day those readings will be discussed and must be submitted as email attachments in Word format. Each essay will be worth 10 percent of your grade and the three essays therefore worth 40 percent. Late papers cannot be accepted.

These short papers should analyze the assigned book, place it in the context of the literature on the topic, and assess both their contributions to the field and their weaknesses. They should emphasize a thoughtful understanding of the week's readings and should not merely summarize the authors' arguments.

Participation. To reflect the importance of class discussion, 10 percent of the final grade will be based on the student's participation. This is a graduate seminar, not a lecture course. My role is to facilitate and guide discussion. Your active participation is essential to the success of the course and you will benefit from the discussion to the extent that you have completed the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Research Paper: Due 15 May 2017. Each student will select a contemporary case of contentious politics or social mobilization and write a 25-page paper that uses the theories and concepts developed in the course to explain a particular conflict or mobilization. Students are expected to go beyond the readings on the syllabus but also to engage in the overarching themes of contentious politics.

The paper must be sent by email as a Word attachment by **15 May 2017**. It must demonstrate both a serious engagement with the conceptual literature and an empirical investigation of a specific case. Papers must cite all sources and include a full bibliography.

On **21 March 2017**, all students must email a 200-250 word abstract to the professor. This abstract should provide a clear indication of the case and a preliminary proposal on what literature relating to contentious politics is likely to be relevant. On **18 April 2017**, each student will submit a preliminary bibliography, divided into sections on the conceptual framework and the empirical literature on the case.

Each student will make a 10-15 minute presentation of her or his case study research paper. We will begin presentations in April, depending on the size of the class, following the first half of the seminar where we will discuss that week's reading. We will wrap up presentations on 2 May 2017. Student presentations should include PowerPoint slides, must adhere to the 10-15 minute time limit, and be prepared to answer questions following the presentation.

Supplemental Requirements for Doctoral Students. Doctoral students will have additional requirements that will be distributed by the professor.

Honor Code and Plagiarism:

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

English Language Institute:

The English Language Institute offers free English language tutoring to non-native English speaking students who are referred by a member of the GMU faculty or staff.

For more information contact 703-993-3642 or malle2@gmu.edu.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center is a free writing resource that offers individual, group, and online tutoring. For general questions and comments please contact wcenter@gmu.edu or 703-993-4491.

READINGS

With the exception of Weeks 3 and 10, each week will focus on a book that either advances a theoretical claim or presents a case study of contentious politics and social mobilization. All books have been ordered and should be available at the university bookstore as well as through the major on-line outlets. All should also be available in most university libraries.

Introduction to the Theoretical Approach**Week One: 24 January 2017: Introduction**

Charles Tilly and Sidney Tarrow. *Contentious Politics*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Week Two: 31 January 2017: Contentious Politics and Social Movements

Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Campaigns and Strategies**Week Three: 7 February 2017: Transnational Advocacy Networks and the Global Justice Movement**

We will watch and discuss video on the 1999 demonstrations in Seattle, "This Is What Democracy Looks Like" and discuss the following articles on transnational advocacy networks:

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics," *International Social Science Journal* (December 2002).

Julie Stewart, "When Local Trouble Becomes Transnational: The Transformation of a Guatemalan Indigenous Rights Movement," *Mobilization* 9:3 (2004): 259-278.

Week Four: 14 February 2017: Austerity and Protest Movements

Donatella della Porta. *Social Movements in Times of Austerity: Bringing Capitalism Back into Protest Analysis*. London: Polity, 2015.

Week Five: 21 February 2017: Nonviolence

Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan. *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

Week Six: 28 February 2017: Global Right

Clifford Bob. *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Week Seven: 7 March 2017: Climate Change

Jennifer Hadden. *Networks in Contention: the Divisive Politics of Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

14 March 2017: SPRING BREAK

Week Eight: 21 March 2017: Social Networks and the Internet

Manuel Castells. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. London: Polity, 2015.

Cases/Presentations

Week Nine: 28 March 2017: US Civil Rights Movement I

Joseph E. Luders. *The Civil Rights Movement and the Logic of Social Change*. Cambridge, 2010.

Week Ten: 4 April 2017: US Civil Rights Movement II

We will watch and discuss video on the United Farm Workers' movement and its leader Cesar Chavez, *Cesar's Last Fast* and discuss the following articles on civil rights movements among Mexican and Puerto Rican communities in the United States:

J. Craig Jenkins and Charles Perrow, "Insurgency of the Powerless: Farm Worker Movements (1946-1972)," *American Sociological Review* 42:2 (April 1977): 249-268.

Benjamin Marquez and James Jennings, "Representation by Other Means: Mexican American and Puerto Rican Social Movement Organizations," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33:3 (September 2000): 541-546.

Week Eleven: 11 April 2017: Popular Uprisings in Africa and the Middle East

Adam Branch and Zachariah Mampilly. *Africa Uprising: Popular Protest and Political Change*. London: Zed, 2015.

OR

Joel Beinin and Frederic Vairel. *Social Movements, Mobilization, and Contestation in the Middle East and North Africa*. 2nd ed. Stanford University Press, 2014.

Week Twelve: 18 April 2017: Civil Wars

Paul Staniland. *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 2014.

Week Thirteen: 25 April 2017: Genocide

Scott Straus. *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008.

Week Fourteen: 2 May 2017: Conclusions

Student Presentations

Final Paper Due as Word email attachment on 15 May 2017