

POSC322 POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Fall Semester 2009

TTh 2:45-4:00pm

Inamori Center 9 (Crawford Hall)

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4:00pm, or by appointment

Course Website: <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb322.htm>

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

Political Movements and Political Participation is concerned with the variety of ways citizens engage in collective action in the United States and across national boundaries, and with the conditions under which citizens identify common concerns and join together in political movements to bring about change. The course begins with an examination of four general bodies of theory and research on political movements: resource mobilization, political opportunity structures, rational choice, and cultural framing. In the context of these sometimes competing theories, we will consider 1) the conditions under which political movements are likely to emerge, as well as the circumstances in which collective political action is precluded; 2) how citizens come to recognize collective grievances and shared political identities; 3) the strategies and tactics of organized movements, and their likelihood of political success; 4) the relationship between political movements, political parties, and the state; and 5) the nature of transnational activism. Relying upon political movement theory as a basis for understanding particular contemporary U.S. political movements, we will focus on the civil rights movement, the labor movement, and the women's movement against sexual harassment.

Evaluation of undergraduate student performance in this course will be based on the following criteria. First, students are expected to attend class and to be prepared for each class meeting by having read, in advance, the materials assigned for that day; this will serve as preparation for class discussion, in which all students are expected to participate. Students are expected, and obliged, to comport themselves, in class, in a professional manner. Professionalism refers to adherence to standards of behavior and performance expected from political scientists. This includes, but is not limited to, courteous behavior in class; attention to other speakers; engagement with the work at hand; and, of course, adherence to university standards of academic integrity. Informed class participation and professionalism are requirements of the course, and account for 10 percent of the final course grade.

Second, each student will have responsibility for directing class discussion of an assigned article, to be arranged with the professor; discussion leadership accounts for 10 percent of the final grade. Details concerning discussion assignments are provided in a separate handout and on the course webpage.

Third, students will write two short papers, each of which is worth 20 percent of the final course grade, and a final research paper, which is worth 25 percent of the final course grade. Details of these assignments are available in a separate course handout.

Finally, each student will present his or her paper findings to the class, in a formal presentation. The paper presentation accounts for the remaining 15 percent of the final grade. A schedule of assignment deadlines is listed in the Schedule of Readings and Assignments, below.

Note that students are required to attend all classes and to complete all course assignments.

Books required for this course are listed below and are available for purchase in the University Bookstore:

- Carrie Baker, *The Women's Movement Against Sexual Harassment*
- Dennis Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*
- William Forbath, *Law and the Shaping of the American Labor Movement*
- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*
- Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement* (2nd ed.)

Additional readings are available through electronic journals or JSTOR, through the Kelvin Smith Library website, or on the course webpage at <http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/kb322.htm>. Each student should print a hardcopy of every additional assigned reading for his or her own research purposes. Please note that this is a requirement of the course.

Students are encouraged to read the *New York Times* daily, either as hard copy or online. Copies of the *Times* are available on campus and in the University Bookstore.

Standards of professionalism and academic integrity are integral components of this course. Students are reminded that they are obliged to understand, to uphold, and to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy of the University. A copy of the Code may be found online at

<http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm>

Students who do not understand this Policy after having read it should make an appointment to see me to discuss it; indeed, I welcome this discussion and encourage students to see me in advance of any assignment about which they have doubts or questions. It is a course requirement that students read the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

August 25 **Introduction to the Course**

August 27 **Theories of Movements: Introduction**

READ: Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, "Introduction" and Chapter 1 in McAdam, McCarthy, and Zald, eds., *Comparative Perspectives* [available on course website]; and Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Chapter 1

September 1 **Political Opportunity Theories: Structure and Culture**

READ: Sidney Tarrow, "States and Opportunities," Chapter 2 in McAdam, McCarthy, and Zald, eds., *Comparative Perspectives*; Herbert P. Kitschelt, "Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies," *British Journal of Political Science*, 1986, 16: 57-85 [available on JSTOR]

September 3 CLASS CANCELED. Professor attending American Political Science Association meetings in Toronto.

September 8 READ: Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Chapters 5 and 6

September 10 **Collective Resources of Political Movements: Resource Mobilization Theory**

READ: John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory," *American Journal of Sociology*, 82 (6), May 1977: 1212-1241 [available through JSTOR]; and Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Chapter 8

September 15 **Mobilization, Identity and Framing**

READ: David Snow, E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steve K. Worden, and Robert Benford, "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation," in Doug McAdam and David A. Snow, eds., *Social Movements*; and Alberto Melucci, "The Process of Collective Identity," in Hank Johnston and Bert Klandermans, eds., *Social Movements and Culture* [available on course website]

September 17 READ: Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Chapter 7

September 22 READ: Karen Beckwith, "Gender Frames and Collective Action: Configurations of Masculinity in the Pittston Coal Strike," *Politics & Society*, 29 (2), June 2001: 295-328 [available through e-journals]

September 24 DISCUSSION

September 29 FILM: "48 Hours: On Strike"

FIRST PAPERS DUE IN CLASS

October 1 **Rational Choice Models and the Black Civil Rights Movement**

READ: Dennis Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapters 1 and 3

October 6 READ: Dennis Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapters 5 and 6

October 8 FILM: "Eyes on the Prize #4: No Easy Walk"

October 13 **Mobilization and Movement Emergence**

READ: Baker, *The Women’s Movement against Sexual Harassment*, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

October 15 READ: Baker, *The Women’s Movement against Sexual Harassment*, Chapters 3, 4 and 5

SECOND PAPER TOPICS APPROVED BY PROFESSOR BY THIS DATE

October 20 FALL BREAK

October 22 READ: Baker, *The Women’s Movement against Sexual Harassment*, Chapters 6 and 7

October 27 **Movement Success and Movement Transformation: State Response**

READ: Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter 8; and Baker, *The Women’s Movement against Sexual Harassment*, Chapter 8 and Conclusion

REVIEW: Sidney Tarrow, “States and Opportunities,” Chapter 2 in McAdam, McCarthy and Zald, eds., *Comparative Perspectives*

October 29 READ: Forbath, *Law and the Shaping of the American Labor Movement*, Chapters 2 and 3

November 3 READ: Forbath, *Law and the Shaping of the American Labor Movement*, Chapter 4

November 4 SECOND PAPERS DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 4:00PM

November 5 **Transnational Social Movements: Emerging Internationalization of Political Activism**

READ: Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Chapters 9 and 10

November 10 READ: Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Chapters 1 and 2

November 12 READ: Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Chapters 3 and 4

November 17 READ: Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Chapters 5 and 6

November 19 IN-CLASS STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

November 24 IN-CLASS STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

November 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1 IN-CLASS STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

December 3 IN-CLASS STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, BY 3:30PM, IN MY OFFICE