

(Draft Syllabus (a few changes/reading substitutions may be made before the first class))

Social Movements in American Politics, Then and Now M. Elizabeth Sanders
Government/Am Sts 4031 Spring, 2018

The class meets Thursday, 2:30-4:25 White Hall B04

Office: 314 White; 255-2305; mes14; Office Hours: Th 4:30-6; Wed. 1:30-3:30 or by appt.

Social movements are collective efforts through which people at the margins of power unite to press their grievances on the state. It is difficult to name a major political reform that did not begin with a social movement. They are essential to the functioning of democracy. U.S. history is marked by important, large-scale, consequential social movements.

Analyzing a variety of movements from the late 19th century to the present, this course seeks answers to the following questions: What grievances, and social and political conditions gave rise to these movements? What strategies did they adopt? What determined success or failure (and how should those terms be defined and measured)? What alliances did they forge to expand their influence, and how much support or opposition did they encounter from elites? How did social movements affect political processes and institutions (and vice-versa)? What is their legacy in politics, policy, and patterns of social interaction?

In the past and present, we will look at the important role played by social movements and their role in legal/institutional and cultural reform; and we will examine two distinct types of movement strategies: those focused on personal and cultural identities, and those built around broad rights of equal citizenship and larger, mostly class-centered grievances. Are there historic differences in success for these two types of collective action? What happens when they are combined, as when the rights and well-being of a distinct group become the basis for a larger mobilization of people who share a similar philosophy but vary significantly in their social status/experience? Something is always lost when intensely felt interests and philosophy are “diluted” within a broader political coalition, but it may be the case that success comes easier and faster when a set of goals are broadly stated and leaders mobilize a coalition based on large principles supported by people of varied identities and situations.

The movements of focus are populism; progressive era movements (labor, farmers, women’s suffrage); protest movements of the 1930’s; civil rights (with brief attention to current protests against use of violence by police); SDS and antiwar movements of the 60s, environmentalism (including contemporary climate and anti-fracking movements); the feminist movement of the late 1960sff; the 1980s anti-nuclear (weapons) movement; gay rights/gay marriage and it’s duel with the religious right; and contemporary protests against the Trump administration. Some theoretical works will be used, but most of our theoretical explorations will be inductively derived, from studies of actual movements, the difficulties they faced, and what they were able to accomplish.

Students will write short (2pp, double-spaced) essays on weekly syllabus readings, and a final research paper on a topic developed in consultation with me. Regular attendance at the seminar is required, except for excused absence because of illness or other emergency (notify me).

Selected chapters will be read from the following books, in order of appearance:

Gene Sharp, *How Nonviolent Struggle Works*

Doug McAdam, *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency* 1st or 2nd ed.

Walter Nugent, *Progressivism: A Very Short Introduction*

Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest*

Todd Gitlin, *The Whole World is Watching*, 2nd ed.

Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Green Revolution*

Mary F. Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*

Clyde Wilcox and Carin Robinson, *Onward Christian Soldiers?* 4th ed.

The campus bookstore will have the most used books, and all will be on reserve at Uris.

*Asterisks denote readings (articles and chapters) on Blackboard reserve. Books that can be purchased, or read in the library, do not have asterisks. All listed readings on the syllabus are required. Purely optional readings, just for your curiosity and possibly useful for your final paper, will also appear on BB, in red, preceded by "OPT."

Reading Schedule

Week 1 (5) *Contemporary Social Movements/Protests* (all readings on Blackboard)

*Vanessa Williamson, Theda Skocpol, and John Coggin, "The Tea Party... and... Republican Conservatism", Perspectives on Pols, 25-43; *Sandra Steingraber, "How We Banned Fracking in New York;" *Marc Solomon, Winning Marriage, xi-xii, 56-67, 362-63; *Black Lives Matter (3 arts and 1 email); and *womens' protest

[Try to read these before the first class, but no essay is required this wk]

Wk 2 *Introduction to Social Movement Theory*

Doug McAdam, *Political Process...* 5-59 (Skim 5-35, concentrate on 36-59)

*Hahrie Han, *How Organizations Develop Activists*, 1-35, 158-59, 208-9

*Ron Aminzade, Jack Goldstone, and Elizabeth Perry, "Leadership Dynamics," 126-top p. 132, and 152-54

Gene Sharp, *How Nonviolent Struggle Works* (Browse 30 pp)

*William Gamson, *The Strategy of Social Protest*, 28-37, 72-88

*Frances Piven and Richard Cloward, *Poor Peoples' Movements*, xv-xvi, 1-17

*Dennis Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*, 1-12

The "Movement Culture" of Farmers in the Late 19th Century

Wk 3 *Elizabeth Sanders, *Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers...* 1-6, 31-32, 101-47

Charles Postell, "What We Talk about when We Talk about Populism," *Raritan*, vol. 37, Number 2, Fall 2017, 133-55.

Wk 4 *Progressive Era Social Movements: farmers, workers, and women*

Walter Nugent, Progressivism: 35-107, 120-27

*Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, chapters 20-21

*Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, African American Women...Struggle for the Vote, 1-12

Organized Labor

Wk 5 *Piven and Cloward, Poor People's Movements, 113-33, 172-75

*Rick Fantasia, Cultures of Solidarity, 121-79

* Tracy Roof, American Labor, Congress, & the Welfare State, 1-20, 177-93, 210-14

Social Protest in the 1930s

Wk 6 Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest, 3-7, 42-53, 61-64, 71-74, 82-84, 119-123, 143-75, 179-86, 192-215, 242-62

The Civil Rights Movement

Wk 7 Doug McAdam, Political Protest and ...Black Insurgency, 60-205

Wk 8 *John Lewis, Walking with the Wind, 90-111, 130-52

*Dennis Chong, Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement, 197-206; McAdam, *ibid.*, 205-229; and review articles on Black Lives Matter, wk 1

Movement and Media in the 1960s and 1970s

Wk 9 *Robert Cohen, Freedom's Orator: Mario Savio & The Radical Legacy of the 1960s, 1-15, 323-49

Todd Gitlin, The Whole World is Watching, 1-71, 89-92, 127-56, 180-92, 209-32

*"Port Huron Statement" from Takin' it to the Streets 61-74.

*Gary T. Marx, "External Efforts To Damage or Facilitate Social Movements," in Zald and McCarthy, Dynamics of Social Mmts, 94-125

Spring Break, April 1-8

Wk 10 *Frederick Miller, "The End of the SDS," in Jo Freeman, ed., Social Mmts...

*Jeffrey Berry and Deborah Schildkraut, "Citizen Groups, Political Parties & Electoral Coalitions" in Costain & McFarland, eds., Social Mmts...136-56.

Film: "Berkeley in the 60's"

Environmentalism

Wk 11 Kirkpatrick Sale, The Green Revolution, 1-108; review anti-fracking arts, wk 1

- *Theda Skocpol, "Why has Climate Legislation Failed?" (Wash. Post, 1-16, '13)
- *Sanders, "Stages of Environmentalism"
- *Trump's anti-environmental agenda and resistance

Women and Equal Rights

- Wk 12 *Anne N. Costain, *Inviting Women's Rebellion*, 26-45
 *Lee Ann Banaszak, *The Women's Movement Inside and Outside the State*, 92-99
 Mary F. Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, ix-xi, 3-103
 *Why so little Progress?" (selected recent arts. on gender relations)

The Opposition to Nuclear Weapons in the 1980s

- Wk 13 *David S. Meyer, *Winter of Discontent*, 157-84;
 *Francis McCrea and Gerald Markle, *Minutes to Midnight*, 122-43;
 *David S. Meyer, "How the Cold War was Really Won," in Marco Giugni et al., *How Social Movements Matter* 182-96, 200-02

The New Religious Right, Lesbian and Gay Activism

- Wk 14 Clyde Wilcox and Carin Robinson, *Onward Christian Soldiers?* 4th ed., 3-137, 141-51 159-61, 181-205
 *Tina Fetner, *How the Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism*, xi-xviii, 10-22, 110-29; and review *Winning Marriage from wk.1*

If you feel unwell, physically or psychologically, you should not hesitate to use the resources at Gannett. If you have any problem that is interfering with your performance in this class, please feel free to talk to me, in confidence, or to call me at the office or at home in case of urgency. If you'd like to chat while walking around Beebe Lake, email me or call the office any afternoon. You may also find "Dr. Sanders's Health Tips," in the Documents section of BB, helpful.