

CPO 6077 - Comparative Social Movements

Fall 2004

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Course Overview

In this seminar we will survey and critique some of the major classical and contemporary theoretical approaches to the field of collective action and social movements. We will pay particular attention to the varying approaches taken by researchers in the disciplines of sociology and political science in their theoretical and empirical investigations of social movements. After a historical review of the literature, we will engage in discussion and exploration of current issues in social movement research.

Since the course attempts to cover a great deal of theoretical ground, readings have been chosen that are representative of particular theoretical approaches or problems, not to give students an intimate knowledge of different countries or movements. Readings will be drawn primarily from the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

The aim of the seminar is three-fold: 1) to familiarize you with the theoretical perspectives, conceptual issues/questions, and empirical research that animate the study of social movements, 2) to stimulate further interest in this area and the development of your own research questions, and 3) to assist graduate students in identifying topics and data sources that may provide the basis of their dissertation/thesis research.

Course Format

For each class, students are required to hand in a brief (approx. 2 page) reaction paper to that week's assigned readings. Your reaction paper should review, critique, and synthesize the assigned readings and also include one or two questions that you would like to have addressed during the class discussion. The questions should be sent to me by 4 pm the day before class.

Course Requirements

Class Presentations

During the course of the semester, each student also will be expected to co-facilitate two seminar discussions (one as a presenter and one as a discussant). The format is as follows: The presenter(s) will summarize the arguments of the assigned readings in about ten minutes, based on a sympathetic reading of the texts. Next, the discussant(s) will rigorously critique the works (10-15 minutes). Then the presenter(s) will respond to the discussant's comments and open the floor to questions and arguments from the rest of the

class. The presenter(s) and discussant(s) will turn in an extended reaction paper (6-8 pp) one week after the discussion.

Research Papers

Each student will be required to write a paper (approx. 25 pp) on a topic related to the study of social movements and collective action. You need not do original empirical research, but may base the paper on secondary sources. The paper might focus on a question related to a particular social movement of interest or you might focus on a theoretical issue of interest. You are required to submit a brief proposal for the paper by February 12. You should each talk to me individually about your research topics early in the semester. The paper is due April 22, by 4 pm.

Required Readings

The following books can be purchased at Goerings, 1717 NW 1st Ave., inside Bagel Land (372-3975):

- Lisa Baldez, *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).
- Marco Giugni, Doug McAdam, and Charles Tilly (eds) *How Social Movements Matter* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999).
- Doug Imig and Sidney Tarrow (eds) *Contentious Europeans: Protest and Politics in an Emerging Polity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2001).
- Marget Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (Cornell University Press, 1998).
- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action* (Harvard University Press, 1971).
- Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement, 2nd Edition* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- Richard L. Wood, *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2002).

A course packet with additional required readings can be purchased from Custom Copy (377-4221).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1, January 8: Introduction

Week 2, January 15: No class meeting.

Week 3, January 22: Classical Collective Behavior Approaches

- William Kornhauser, *The Politics of Mass Society* (1959), Introduction, chs. 2, 13.
- Neil Smelser, *Theory of Collective Behavior* (1962), chs. 1, 3.
- Ralph Turner and Lewis Killian, "Toward a Theory of Social Movements," from *Collective Behavior*, 3rd Ed. (1987).

- Ted Gurr, *Why Men Rebel* (1970), ch. 2.
- James C. Davies, "The J-Curve of Rising and Declining Satisfaction as a Cause of Some Great Revolutions and a Contained Rebellion," in Graham and Gurr (eds) *Violence in America* (1979).

Week 4, January 29: Rational Choice

- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action* (1971).
- Russell Hardin, *Collective Action* (1982), Intro, chs. 1, 2.
- Dennis Chong, *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movements* (1991), chs. 1, 3.

Week 5, February 5: Resource Mobilization

- Charles Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution*, chs. 2-5.
- John McCarthy and Mayer Zald, "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory," *AJS* 82:6 (May 1977).
- Myra Max Ferree, "The Political Context of Rationality: Rational Choice Theory and Resource Mobilization," in Morris and Mueller (eds), *Frontiers in Social Movement Theory* (1992).

Week 6, February 12: Political Process Model

- Doug McAdam, *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency* (1982), ch. 2.
- Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement* (1998).

Week 7, February 19: Frame Analysis

- David Snow, et.al. (1986), "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation," *American Sociological Review* 51: 464-481.
- David Snow and Robert Benford (1992), "Master Frames and Cycles of Protest," in Aldon D. Morris and Carol McClurg Mueller (eds.) *Frontiers of Social Movement Theory*, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Myra Marx Ferree and David Merrill (2000), "Hot Movements, Cold Cognition: Thinking about Social Movements in Gendered Frames," *Contemporary Sociology* 29,3.
- Pamela Oliver and Hank Johnston (2000), "What a Good Idea! Ideologies and Frames in Social Movement Research," *Mobilization* 5: 37-54.

Week 7, February 26: New Social Movements

- Jurgen Habermas, "New Social Movements," *Telos* 49 (1981).
- Alberto Melucci, "The Symbolic Challenge of Contemporary Movements," *Social Research* 52: 4 (Winter 1985).

- Alberto Melucci, “A Strange Kind of Newness: What’s ‘New’ in New Social Movements?” in Laraña, Johnston and Gusfield (eds) *New Social Movements* (1994).
- Alain Touraine, “Beyond Social Movements?” *Theory, Culture & Society* 9 (1992).
- Steven Buechler, “Social Movement Theories,” *The Sociological Quarterly* 36: 3 (1995).

Week 8, March 4: Religion and Social Movements

- Richard L. Wood, *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* (2002).

Week 9, March 18: Women and Social Movements

Lisa Baldez, *Why Women Protest: Women’s Movements in Chile* (2002).

Week 10, March 25: Transnational Activism

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (1998)

Week 11, April 1: No class meeting

Week 12, April 8: Social Movements in the New Europe

- Doug Imig and Sidney Tarrow (eds) *Contentious Europeans* (2001).

Week 13, April 15: Conclusion

Week 14, April 22: Papers due