ISSUES AND POLICIES IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD

Fall 2012
GOV 312L (38635)
Welch 1.316
Tues/Thurs 12:30–2:00

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Course description: In recent decades, social movements have mobilized people concerned about issues ranging from the rights of women and ethnic minorities to the environment, human rights, and world peace. These new social movements are frequently distinguished by the socio-economic heterogeneity of their members, the informal and fluid nature of their organization, the uneasy relationship they have to established political institutions, and the unconventional forms of protest they employ. This course will examine and analyze the origins, modes of action, and impact of movements centered on three issues: race, women, and the environment. Comparisons will be made between the civil rights movement in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa; women's movements in the United States and Chile; the Greens in West Germany and environmental activists seeking to preserve the Amazon rain forest. The goal of this comparative enterprise is to examine how different socio-economic and political contexts shape social movements based on common issues. For example, in many developing societies, where great numbers of people are poor, uneducated, and often intimidated by authoritarian governments, social movements face particularly stiff obstacles to organization. International attention and support have often been necessary to protect these movements. By contrast, in the advanced industrial West, basic human rights are more likely to be guaranteed and an articulate middle class with a sense of political efficacy is more likely to assure the success of a social movement. In this vein, the course will analyze how social movements emerge and function within existing structures of politics, and how they try to create new structures of interest representation to influence policy-making. The role of

transnational activism is studied in the context of the paired comparisons.

BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE BOOK STORE

Sidney Tarrow. 2011. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics.*
New York: Cambridge University Press.

Clayborne Carson. 2001. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Elleke Boehmer. 2008. *Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ruth Rosen. 2000. *The World Split Open: How the Women's Movement Changed America.* New York: Viking/Penguin.

Lisa Baldez. 2002. *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

A compilation of articles is also required. They are available on Blackboard.

REQUIREMENTS/ GRADE DISTRIBUTION

*Lectures: Students are responsible for all material in the lectures.
*Readings: Students are responsible for completing all weekly readings by Tuesday
*Students will be evaluated according to the following:

1. **Two In-Class Mid-Term Examinations**. Both exams will be *in-class, closed-book exams* designed to test students' understanding of fundamental concepts and arguments plus key historical facts. Each exam will constitute **35 percent of your grade**. The dates for these exams will be Thursday October 11 and Tuesday November 6.

2. **Final Exam**. This will be a take home essay exam designed to test students' understanding of the major issues treated in the course. This final assignment must be handed in at the BEGINNING of class on Thursday December 6. We will not accept submissions via e-mail. This assignment will constitute **30 percent of your grade.** There is a penalty of a full letter grade per day for late essays (e.g. An "A" will move down to a "B.") I will hand out the questions well in advance of the due date.

There will be a strict ban on the use of laptops and cell phones.

Students are expected to understand and adhere to all University regulations about cheating, and will be expected to observe all University procedures and deadlines for withdrawals. If you have questions about the university honor code and what constitutes plagiarism, see registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01.

Make–up policy: Students are expected to take all exams and hand in all assignments on the scheduled dates. Exceptions will be made only in the event of a dire emergency, defined as a serious medical illness (accompanied by a physician's note) or death of a close family member. Excuses like weddings and personal out-of-town travel will not be accepted.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471–6259, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of any pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day.

There will be plus and minus grades. Your final grade will be calculated as follows: we will sum all the points you received in the class and convert them into letter grades based on the following scale:

93-100 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-
Below 60 = F

Without exception, we will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. Students who wish to contest a grade must do so in writing within two weeks of the day on which the assignment was handed back in class. Students must go first to one of the TAs and then to the professor only if the meeting, scheduled after receipt of the written appeal, was deemed unsatisfactory.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

(* on Blackboard)

DAY 1 – AUGUST 30: INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1 – SEPTEMBER 4 AND 6: THEORETICAL ISSUES IN THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS LITERATURE

Sidney Tarrow. 2011. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics.* Introduction, and Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8.

WEEK 2 – SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Clayborne Carson. 2001. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Introduction, Chapters 1–3, and Chapters 7–9.

WEEK 3 – SEPTEMBER 18 AND 20: CIVIL RIGHTS CONTINUED

Clayborne Carson. Part 2 (Chapters 10–13), Part 3 (Chapters 14–18), and Epilogue.

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27: THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Robert M. Price. 1991. *The Apartheid State in Crisis: Political Transformation in South Africa 1975–1990.* Chapters 1, 2, and 5.

WEEK 5 – OCTOBER 2 AND 4: ANTI–APARTHEID CONTINUED

*Robert M. Price. Chapters 7–8.
Elleke Boehmer. 2008. *Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction*. Chapters 1–4.

WEEK 6 – OCTOBER 9 AND 11: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE US

****FIRST MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, October 11**

Ruth Rosen. 2000. *The World Split Open: How the Women's Movement Changed America.* Preface, Chronology, Parts 1 and 2.

WEEK 7 – OCTOBER 16 AND 18: U.S. WOMEN'S MOVEMENT CONTINUED

Ruth Rosen. Part 3 and Epilogue.

WEEK 8 – OCTOBER 23 AND 25: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN CHILE

Lisa Baldez. 2002. *Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile.* Chapters 1–5.

WEEK 9 – OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 1: CHILEAN WOMEN CONTINUED

Lisa Baldez. Chapters 6–8.

WEEK 10 – NOVEMBER 6 AND 8: GREEN MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST

****SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday, November 6**

*E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker. 1992. *Between Protest and Power: The Green Party in Germany.* Introduction, Chapters 2, 3, and 5.
*Kristine Kern, Stephanie Koenen, and Tina Löffelsend. 2004. "Red-Green Environmental Policy in Germany: Strategies and Performance Patterns. " In *Germany on the Road to "Normalcy".* New York: Palgrave McMillan.

WEEK 11 – NOVEMBER 13 AND 15: THE GREENS CONTINUED

*E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker. Chapters 8–9.
*Laura Blue. 2007. "Lessons from Germany." *Time*. Special on the Environment.

WEEK 12 – NOVEMBER 20: AMAZON RAINFOREST MOVEMENTS

*Chico Mendes. 1989. *Fight for the Forest.* Entire book.
*Kathryn Hochstetler and Margaret Keck. 2007. *Greening Brazil.* Amazônia.

WEEK 13 – NOVEMBER 27 AND 29: TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVISM

*Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Chapter 1.
*Beth Conklin and Laura Graham. 1995. "The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco–Politics." *American Anthropologist* 97 (4): 695-710.
*Robert F. Hartley. 2005. *Business Ethics: Mistakes and Successes.* Chapter 13.

*Sidney Tarrow. 2011. Chapter 12, "Transnational Contention." Also, "Conclusions" (pages 259-274).

WEEK 14 – DECEMBER 4 AND 6: FINAL REFLECTIONS

No new readings.