

Social Movement and Contentious Politics

Course Overview

This course introduces students to basic theories about social movements and contentious politics. The topics discussed in this course center on the interplay between two issues: how social movements emerge and how the state responds to social contention, covering mobilization, framing, identity and emotions, leadership, and alliances. This course presents an introduction to social movements and contentious politics through a survey of the main concepts, theoretical debates, and methodological approaches

Course Objectives

1. understand the fundamental theories about social movements and contentious politics
2. be able to analyze the dynamics of social movements
3. understand the consequences of social protests and their implications for governance and policymaking.

Assessment

- 5% - In-class participation
- 30% - Mid-Term
 - Multiple-choice questions x 20
 - A short explanation of key terms x 2
- 30% - Group presentation on discussion reading
 - For 8 selected weeks (with*), 3 - 4 students need to form a group and present one of the assigned readings with 1- 2 questions for in-class open discussion
- 35% - Final paper (5% research prospectus (500 words); 30% final report (2000 words)
 - An individual project that describes and analyzes real protest events using concepts learned in this class

Course structure

Each week's class is divided into three 45-minute sessions. The first two sessions cover basic concepts with examples, and the final session includes a student-led discussion of the assigned reading.

Weekly Schedule and Readings

The schedule below lists the issues covered in the lecture, the required reading, and the discussion reading (if any) for each week. Read the required and discussion readings before the lecture. Students are expected to spend 3 to 6 hours per week reading and working on the group project.

Week 1 Conceptualizing

McAdam, D., Tarrow, S., & Tilly, C. (2001). *Dynamics of contention*. Cambridge University Press.

Tilly, C. (2003). The politics of collective violence. *Cambridge University Press*. Ch. 1.

Week 2 Doing Social Movement Research

- Lichterman, P. (2002). Seeing structure happen: Theory-driven participant observation. In S. Staggenborg & B. Klandermans (Eds.), *Methods of social movement research* (pp. 118–145). University of Minnesota Press.
- Milan, S. (2014). The ethics of social movement research. In D. della Porta (Ed.), *Methodological practices in social movement research* (pp. 446–464). Oxford University Press.

Week 3 Resources Mobilization

- McCarthy, J. D., & Zald, M. N. (1977). Resource mobilization and social movements: A partial theory. *American journal of sociology*, 82(6), 1212–1241.
- Buechler, S. M. (1993). Beyond resource mobilization? Emerging trends in social movement theory. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 34(2), 217–235.

Week 4 Political Opportunity Structure

- Cornell, A., & Grimes, M. (2015). Institutions as incentives for civic action: Bureaucratic structures, civil society, and disruptive protests. *Journal of Politics*, 77(3), 664–678.
- Meyer, D. S., & Minkoff, D. C. (2004). Conceptualizing political opportunity. *Social Forces*, 82(4), 1457–1492.

*Week 5 Framing Grievance**

- Benford, R. D., & Snow, D. A. (2000). Framing processes and social movements: An overview and assessment. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26(1), 611–639.
- Ferree, M. M. (2003). Resonance and radicalism: Feminist framing in the abortion debates of the United States and Germany. *American Journal of Sociology*, 109, 304–344.

*Week 6 Collective Identity and Emotions**

- Bernstein, M. (1997). Celebration and suppression: The strategic uses of identity by the lesbian and gay movement. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(3), 531–565.
- Van Stekelenburg, J., & Klandermans, B. (2013). The social psychology of protest. *Current Sociology*, 61(5–6), 886–905.

*Week 7 Information and Media**

- Enikolopov, R., Makarin, A., & Petrova, M. (2020). Social media and protest participation: Evidence from Russia. *Econometrica*, 88(4), 1479–1514.
- Roscigno, V. J., & Danaher, W. F. (2001). Media and mobilization: The case of radio and southern textile worker insurgency, 1929–1934. *American Sociological Review*, 66(1), 21–48.

*Week 8 Strategies and Tactics**

- Sawyer, P. S., & Korotayev, A. V. (2022). Formal education and contentious politics: The case of violent and non-violent protest. *Political Studies Review*, 20(3), 366–389.
- Welzel, C., & Deutsch, F. (2012). Emancipative values and non-violent protest: The importance of ecological effects. *British Journal of Political Science*, 42(2), 465–479.

* Mid-Term

*Week 9 Leadership and Coalition**

- Beamish, T. D., & Luebbers, A. J. (2009). Alliance building across social movements: Bridging difference in a peace and justice coalition. *Social Problems*, 56(4), 647–676.

Poell, T., Abdulla, R., Rieder, B., Woltering, R., & Zack, L. (2016). Protest leadership in the age of social media. *Information, Communication & Society*, 19(7), 994–1014.

*Week 10 Gender and Student Movement**

Gill, J., & DeFronzo, J. (2009). A comparative framework for the analysis of international student movements. *Social Movement Studies*, 8(3), 203–224.

Viterna, J. (2006). Pulled, pushed and persuaded: Explaining women's mobilization into the Salvadoran guerrilla army. *American Journal of Sociology*, 112(1), 1–45.

*Week 11 Everyday Forms of Resistance**

Lawrence, A. (2022). Acting as if: Dramatics, deception, and the production of state power. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(1), 32–35.

MacGinty, R. (2012). Between resistance and compliance: Non-participation and the liberal peace. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 6(2), 167–187.

*Week 12 State Repression**

Nugent, E. R. (2020). The psychology of repression and polarization. *World Politics*, 72(2), 291–334.

King, G., Pan, J., & Roberts, M. (2013). How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression. *American Political Science Review*, 107(2), 326–343.

Week 13 Consequences of Social Protests

Desposato, S., & Wang, G. (2020). The long-term impact of social movements and repression on democratic attitudes. *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 20(3), 317–351.

Sherkat, D. E., & Blocker, T. J. (1997). Explaining the political and personal consequences of protest. *Social Forces*, 75(3), 1049–1070.

Week 14 Conclusion