

BC3504 Colloquium on Social Movements Across Time and Space

Spring 2013
T 4:10-6:00
903 Altschul Hall

Mona El-Ghobashy
404 Lehman Hall
Office hours: T & Th 12-1 & by appt.
melghoba@barnard.edu

Social movements were once considered marginal forms of political participation compared to political parties and interest groups. Now they have become central means of doing politics in both authoritarian and democratic regimes. This colloquium studies the origins, trajectories, and effects of social movements in a variety of political environments, including 19th century Britain, 20th century U.S., South Africa, and Southeast Asia, and the 21st century Middle East and Europe.

The central questions we explore are: why do citizens form social movements if they can join political parties and interest groups? How do citizens in undemocratic regimes manage to sustain a social movement? And why do social movements fail to get off the ground in spite of facilitating conditions? The first part of the course surveys major concepts in the literature and puts them in dialogue with contemporary cases of social movements. The second part reviews the most influential scholarly approach to the analysis of social movements, often labeled the ‘integrated social movement perspective’. Part III delves into the contemporary movements sweeping the globe, especially movements against neoliberalism in Latin American and the Occupy protests. We end with a fascinating case study not of a social movement but its opposite, of people unable to engage in collective action in contemporary Argentina.

Requirements

❖ Attendance & Participation	10%
❖ Class Presentation	10%
❖ Two 700-word position papers	30%
❖ Research Paper (25 pp.)	50%

Participation: The success of the colloquium depends on the active participation of each and every member, which means attendance at every class session and thoughtful contribution to our discussion based on a thorough analysis of the readings. Attendance will be recorded. To anchor our discussions, you must bring the readings with you to class. Since we meet only once a week, more than one unexcused absence will affect your participation grade by one third of a letter grade (e.g. from an A- to a B+).

Presentation: Each week, one or two students will start class with a 7-10 min. presentation on the readings (you should coordinate with your peer if two of you are presenting on the same day). An effective and lively presentation should not summarize the readings. It should offer and defend a

particular interpretation and analysis of the texts, and raise several provocative questions for class discussion. In addition, during the final two weeks of the colloquium, each seminar participant will also give a brief five-minute presentation of her research paper and receive feedback from peers.

Position Papers: In addition to strengthening your presentation skills, the colloquium puts a premium on analytical reading and writing skills. The two position papers (to be submitted at the beginning of class on September 17 and October 8) should provide a succinct *analysis* of a specific aspect of one or more readings in 700-800 words. The papers shouldn't be summaries of the readings, but instead offer your reasoned interpretation and analysis of what you read, supported by page references.

You may focus your position paper on challenging the author's definition of his/her terms or analysis of his/her case, raise relevant questions left unanswered by the author, present your own analysis of the case study or theoretical issue under examination, or compare and contrast two readings for a particular week. You may write a position paper on the same topic as your presentation.

Research Paper: This is the major requirement in the colloquium. The paper is designed to have you explore in-depth one or two social movements that interest you, based on fairly extensive research incorporating some primary or semi-primary sources. You can explore any aspect of one or two social movements in any country and/or time period.

An effective research paper will be anchored in a very specific and focused **question**. Broad and general topics don't make for successful papers. Detailed guidelines on researching and writing the paper will be handed out and discussed in class. You will submit a paper proposal and preliminary bibliography on October 22, so that you can receive tailored feedback that will help you write the paper.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- ❖ Evaluate contrasting approaches to the study of the same social movement.
- ❖ Build an effective argument using reasons and evidence.
- ❖ Recognize the difference between a narrative and an expository essay.
- ❖ Integrate expository writing skills into the framework of a research paper.

Required Texts

The following three required books have been ordered at **Book Culture** (112th St. btw. Broadway and Amsterdam, 212-865-1588) and placed on reserve at Barnard's Wollman Library. The Dudziak and Auyero books are also available as Ebooks via CLIO. All other readings are available in PDF via the "Files & Resources" link on Courseworks in a folder titled "Readings."

- ❖ Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2011)
- ❖ Eduardo Silva, *Challenging Neoliberalism in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press 2009)
- ❖ Javier Auyero, *Patients of the State: The Politics of Waiting in Argentina* (Duke University Press, 2012)

Policy on Late Assignments

The position papers must be handed in at the beginning of class, since they are designed to help you prepare for class discussion. No late position papers will be accepted.

Late research papers will be downgraded one third of a letter grade per day. For example, a “B” paper due Tuesday but handed in Thursday will receive a “C+”. Papers submitted more than **two** days after the due date will not be accepted.

No grade of “Incomplete” will be assigned in this course, so please manage your schedule to hand in all work on time.

For Seniors

All Seniors who have designated this course as the Colloquium to fulfill their Senior Capstone requirement must also complete the following:

1. Provide constructive criticism and feedback to your designated peer partner(s). You and your partner should hold meetings to discuss your assignments, e.g. research proposals, research methods, rough drafts, etc.
2. Generate a poster that summarizes your research question, argument, and findings. The poster should accompany your class presentation and will be displayed at the Senior end-of-year Departmental party in May 2014. The poster will not be graded, but is required to receive a “Pass” for your Senior requirement and will factor into Departmental considerations for Senior Project Distinction.

Academic Honesty

All students taking this course must adhere to the Barnard College Honor Code, regardless of their academic affiliation. The honor code considers it “dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present oral work or written work which is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor.” If in doubt about any of these provisions or you would like to discuss these matters further, please seek guidance from the instructor.

Classroom Rules

- ❖ The emphasis in a colloquium is on collective discussion and engagement with the readings and each other's ideas. Computers are not necessary or conducive to this purpose, so please do not use laptops in class.
- ❖ Each class session will begin promptly at 4:10 with your peers' presentation on the readings, so as a matter of respect for them, please be in your seat by 4:05 pm.
- ❖ Cell phones must be on silent for the full duration of the class period and placed out of sight.
- ❖ Please do not consume any kind of food in class. Water and beverages in sealed containers are fine.

Course Schedule

Week 1 September 3: Introduction, Course Overview

Part I. Conceptualizing Social Movements

Week 2 September 10: What are Social Movements?

- ❖ Hank Johnston, *States and Social Movements* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011), chs 1 & 4.
- ❖ Charles Tilly, *Social Movements 1768-2012* (Paradigm Publishers, 2013), ch. 2.
- ❖ Herbert Kitschelt, "Diversification and Reconfiguration of Party Systems in Postindustrial Democracies," Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (2004), 1-23.

Week 3 September 17: Some Contemporary Cases

- ❖ Kurt Schock, *Unarmed Insurrections: People Power Movements in Nondemocracies* (University of Minnesota Press, 2004), ch. 3 {Ebook in CLIO}
- ❖ Nancy Postero, "Indigenous Responses to Neoliberalism: A Look at the Bolivian Uprising of 2003," *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 28:1 (2005): 73-92.
- ❖ Jeff Goodwin, "Why We Were Surprised (Again) by the Arab Spring," *Swiss Political Science Review* 17:4 (December 2011): 452-456.
- ❖ Wendy Pearlman, "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings," *Perspectives on Politics* (June 2013): 387-409.

Position Paper 1 due in class September 17

Part II. Analytical Perspectives on Social Movements

Week 4 September 24: Political Opportunity Structures

- ❖ Herbert Kitschelt, "Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies," *British Journal of Political Science* 16:1 (January 1986): 57-85.

- ❖ Doug McAdam, “On the International Origins of Domestic Political Opportunities,” in Anne Costain and Andrew McFarland, eds., *Social Movements and American Political Institutions* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998), 251-67.
- ❖ David Meyer and Debra Minkoff, “Conceptualizing Political Opportunity,” *Social Forces* 82.4 (2004): 1457-1492.

Week 5 October 1: Organization & Resource Mobilization

- ❖ Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals* (New York: Vintage, 1971), ch. 7.
- ❖ Bob Edwards and John D. McCarthy, “Resources and Social Movement Mobilization,” David Snow et al Eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003), 116-152. {Ebook in CLIO}
- ❖ Aldon Morris, “Birmingham Confrontation Reconsidered: An Analysis of the Dynamics and Tactics of Mobilization,” *American Sociological Review* 58: 5 (October 1993): 621-636.

Week 6 October 8: “Framing”: Ideas and Symbols

- ❖ Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals* (New York: Vintage, 1971), ch. 5.
- ❖ Robert Benford and David Snow, “Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment,” *Annual Review of Sociology* (2000): 611-39.
- ❖ Doug McAdam, “The Framing Function of Movement Tactics: Strategic Dramaturgy in the American Civil Rights Movement,” in McAdam et al, eds., *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 338-356.

Position Paper 2 due in class October 8

Week 7 October 15: Movements and States: Dynamics of Repression

- ❖ Vincent Boudreau, “State Repression and Democracy Protest in Three Southeast Asian Countries,” in Meyer et al eds., *Social Movements: Identity, Culture, and the State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- ❖ David Cunningham, “State Versus Social Movement: FBI Counterintelligence Against the New Left,” in Jack Goldstone, Ed., *States, Parties, and Social Movements* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

- ❖ Myra Marx Ferree, “Soft Repression: Ridicule, Stigma, and Silencing in Gender-Based Movements,” in Christian Davenport et al, eds., *Repression and Mobilization* (Minneapolis: the University of Minnesota Press, 2005), 138-155.

Part III. Case Studies of Selected Social Movements

Week 8 October 22: The International Context of the American Civil Rights Movement

- ❖ Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2011).

Research Paper Proposal & Bibliography due in class October 22

Week 9 October 29: Anti-Austerity Protests in Latin America

- ❖ Eduardo Silva, *Challenging Neoliberalism in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press 2009)

November 5: No Class, Election Day Holiday

Week 10 November 12: The Occupy Movements

- ❖ Mary Kaldor & Sabine Selchow, “The ‘Bubbling Up’ of Subterranean Politics in Europe,” *Journal of Civil Society* 9 (2013): 78-99.
- ❖ Jenny Pickerill & John Krinsky, “Why does Occupy Matter?” *Social Movement Studies* 11: 3-4 (2012): 279-287
- ❖ Sidney Tarrow, “Why Occupy Wall Street is not the Tea Party of the Left,” *Foreign Affairs*, October 10, 2011.
- ❖ David Plotke, “Occupy Wall Street, Flash Movements and American Politics,” *Dissent* (August 2012)

Week 11 November 19: The Impossibility of Collective Action

- ❖ Javier Auyero, *Patients of the State: the Politics of Waiting in Argentina* (Duke University Press 2012)

Week 12 November 26: Presentations of Research Papers

Week 13 December 3: Presentations of Research Papers

Research papers due Tuesday December 10 at noon in 404 Lehman Hall
