Why we are here

Why do people protest and does it do any good? That is the fundamental issue we will be examining this semester. What makes people upset enough to protest? Why don’t more people protest? Why do so many people protest? What makes something a social movement? Who joins them? What do social movements do? What relationship do they have to the mass media or political parties? How do social movements win?

This course is designed to give you an overview of current research in social movements, along with the foundational literature that contemporary work is in dialogue with. It is a seminar, which in this cases means no Powerpoint and lots of discussion. On most weeks, we will have two primary articles that everyone will reading. Most weeks we will also have three sets of secondary articles. Each student will be required to do the readings from one of those three sets. This means that many weeks you will bring your understanding of an article that everyone read, plus your insights to share from articles that the majority of class did not read. It is my hope that will lead to a lively 150 minutes every week.

Stuff you have to do

Your final grade will be based on: your active participation in class (20%); six reading response memos (30%), and an Annual Review style literature review (50%).

Reading Response Memos

Five reading response memos are required. Reading response memos should be a four page combination of summary, synthesis, reaction, and discussion point covering all of your assigned readings for the day. Pay particular attention to tensions
between assigned readings. Discussion of theory, method, and evidence is appropriate. Conclude by listing a few points or items for class discussion. These could either be about the implications of the reading; about specific weaknesses; about tensions between readings; or even about things you didn’t understand. These should be posted to Blackboard (under Discussion Board) as Word documents (.doc, not .docx) or pdfs by 8pm the evening before we meet to discuss the readings. You will be doing these every other week, depending on your assigned color, and you can miss one week.

**Mini State of the Art Review**

You will be writing an literature review that summarizes one subfield in the sociology of the social movements. This is in the style of an Annual Review article, but shorter—15-20 pages, not including references. As with the Sociology Department’s SAR requirement, you are expected “to synthesize existing work in a subfield while also breaking new ground in that subfield by suggesting new theoretical and substantive questions for future research.” This assignment will be described more fully on January 22nd.

**Categories**

You will be put into two different groups. The first will be related to when you will be writing your reading response memos. You will write for either the “red” or the “green” weeks. The second type of group is based on which set of secondary readings you will be doing. Here, the labels are “circle,” “square,” and “triangle.” Once you are assigned a group, you can’t leave it. Ever.

**Readings**

Two books are required for the course:


Except where noted, additional readings are available on the internet. You should use Google Scholar or the UNC Library web site to find them. Older articles are often on JSTOR. The articles are usually behind some sort of paywall, requiring you to access the articles either from a campus or through the university proxy servers.
It is your responsible to locate the articles. If you can’t seem to track one down, let me know.

If you feel lost, or would like more of a background on the topic, may I recommend:

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press. *This is a undergraduate textbook that provides a nice systematic overview of social movement theory.*

Snow, David A., Sarah A. Soule and Hanspeter Kriesi, editors. 2004. *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Blackwell Publishing. *This is a recent edited volume that provides in-depth essays on a number of specific social movement topics.*

The online Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology is also quite good for social movement topics.

**Academic Integrity**

Don’t cheat, plagiarize or otherwise engage in academic misconduct. Familiarize yourself with the University policy on Academic Dishonesty. Transgressions will be reported.
Course Schedule

This is our current plan. If we get ahead, behind, or change directions, updated schedules will be made available.

1/15: Orientation

No readings.

1/22: Old School Social Movement Theory Green


1/29: Political Process/Political Opportunities Red


2/5: Who Joins? Green


2/19: Culture and Emotion *Green*

MSAR abstract due


2/26: Organizations Red

This section is tentative.


3/5: Rachel Sherman

Primary TBA

3/12: Spring Break

3/19: Diffusion, networks and countermovements Green


13:


3/26: Tactics *Red*


**Primary** Goodwin, J. 2007. “The Struggle Made Me a Nonracialist: Why There was so Little Terrorism in the Antiapartheid Struggle.” *Mobilization* 12:

4/2: State-related consequences Green


4/9: Non-state related consequences Red

**Red** MSAR annotated bibliography due
Primary Meyer, DS. 2006. “Claiming Credit: Stories of Movement Influence as Outcomes.” Mobilization 11:


4/16: The labor movement Green

4/23: Transnational movements Red
Primary Tarrow, S. 2005. “The Dualities of Transnational Contention: Two Activist Solitudes or a New World Altogether?.” Mobilization 10:


4/29: Due date

MSAR due in my mailbox by 4:00pm. No late papers will be accepted.