

COLLECTIVE ACTION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Anthropology/Sociology (ANSO) 300, Section 1
Fall 2002, MWF 1:50-2:50, Clough 100

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Office hrs: MW 3-4, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the study of collective action and social movements in the modern world. In the first part of the course, we lay out some of the general questions about collective action and social movements – Why do they occur? Why do people join them? Why do they succeed or fail? – and explore the broad theoretical approaches to answering them. This first section is grounded in a close case study of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. In the second part, we examine varying forms of collective action, from riots to revolutions, and different types of social movements, including anti-imperial, right-wing, environmental, and Islamic movements. And finally, we touch on some of the new developments in the study of collective action and social movements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

(1) Punctuality, Attendance and Participation – A good portion of the work we do is in the classroom during lectures and discussion. This means that regular punctuality, attendance and participation are required. Make sure to arrive for class on time so as not to disturb others by coming in late. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to alert me of your presence (at the end of class) if you do arrive late, otherwise you will be marked absent. Active participation takes many forms including asking and answering questions, commenting on readings and lectures, contributing to a discussion. Your attendance, punctuality and engaged presence are **essential** for the course and count for 20% of your final grade.

(2) Discussion Leadership – Each student will take on the role of discussion leader twice during the semester. Join up with one or two other students, do the week's reading, and prepare to lead the discussion for that week. The presentation should include a brief summary of the work and its main questions, arguments, and contributions. Then help me guide the broader discussion with the rest of the class. At the end of the week, hand in a written one-page statement of your presentation. Discussion leadership counts for 30% of your grade.

(3) Analytical Essays – There will be two analytical essays to complete during the semester. The first one functions as a theoretical assessment of the various paradigms in the study of collective action and social movements and is due at the end of the first section of the course. The length is approximately 7 pages. The second one is a ten-page analysis of a chosen social movement or form of collective action. This will involve some research and collection of data but the emphasis is on analysis more so than on a catalogue of facts. The analytical essays will count for a combined total of 50% of the final grade, the first essay 20% and the second for 30%.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Purchase these books at the bookstore. I will announce and distribute any additional readings.

Gustave LeBon, The Crowd, Transaction 1995

Doug McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970, U of Chicago, 1999.

Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven, Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail, Vintage 1979.

Timothy Garton Ash, The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague, Vintage Books, 1999.

Paul R.R. Brass, Theft of an Idol, Princeton U Press, 1997.

John Esposito, Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?, Oxford U Press, 1999.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1 (Aug 28, 30) – Introduction to the Course

Aug 28 Syllabus and handouts

Aug 30 What is collective action? What is a social movement?

THEORETICAL PARADIGMS

Week 2 (Sept 4, 6) – The Classical Approach

Sept 2 - No Class

LeBon, The Crowd

Week 3 (Sept 9, 11, 13) – Resource Mobilization

Olsen, “The Logic of Collective Action”

John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, “Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory”, *American Journal of Sociology* 82 (6) May 1977, 1212-1241

Data collection on the civil rights movement

Week 4 (Sept 16, 18, 20) - Political Process/Political Opportunity

McAdam, Political Process and Black Insurgency

Week 5 (Sept 23, 25, 27) – Cultural Framing

David A. Snow, E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden, Robert D. Benford, “Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation”, *American Sociological Review* 51 (4) Aug 1986, 464-481.

Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Video excerpts, “Eyes on the Prize”

Week 6 (Sept 30, Oct 2, 4) – Theoretical Assessment

Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, Mayer Zald, “Introduction: Opportunities, mobilizing structures, and framing processes – toward a synthetic, comparative perspective on social movements”, in Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements, Cambridge U Press, 1996, pgs. 1-20.

Trip to Civil Rights Museum

Discussion

Oct 4 - Essay due – What does the National Civil Rights Museum tell us about the American civil rights movement?

CASE STUDIES OF COLLECTIVE ACTION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

For each of the texts and cases below, ask yourself the following questions: What is a poor people’s movement? A revolution? A right-wing movement? Ethnic Conflict? How are they different from or similar to other kinds of movements and collective action? Why do they occur? Which conditions shape their emergence, course, participation, methods, and decline?

Week 7 (Oct 7, 9, 11) - Poor People’s Movements

Pivan and Cloward, Poor People’s Movements

Week 8 (Oct 14, 16, 18) - Revolutions

Ash, Magic Lantern

Week 9 (Oct 23, 25) – Revolutions, cont’d

Oct 21 - No Class, fall break

Film, Battle of Algiers

Week 10 (Oct 28, 30, Nov 1) – Right-Wing Movements

Excerpts from Sara Diamond’s Roads to Dominion (US case)

H. Kitschelt, “France: The National Front as Prototype of the New Radical Right”, in The Radical Right in Western Europe: A Comparative Analysis, pgs. 91-120 (Europe)

Excerpts from Kathleen Blee’s No Middle Ground (US women)

Excerpts from David Neiwert’s In God’s Country: The Patriot Movement and the Pacific Northwest

Article on Christian Coalition

Week 11 (Nov 4, 6, 8) – Ethnic Conflict

Blass, Theft of An Idol

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES

Week 12 (Nov 11, 13, 15) – The Role of Emotions in Collective Action

Essays from Passionate Politics

Week 13 (Nov 18, 20, 22) – Islamic Movements and Terrorism

Esposito, Islamic Threat

Guest expert: Professor Quintan Wicktorwicz

Week 14 – (Nov 25) – cont’d

Frontline video

Nov 27, 29 - No class, T-giving

Week 15 – (Dec 2, 4, 6) – Discussion of selected projects

Strategies for writing analytical essays

Individual meetings

Presentations of selected topics

Week 16 – (Dec 9, 11) – Reflections

Presentations

Reflections

Week 17 – (Monday December 16) - Final Exam Period

Final essay due