SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on four key orientations for the analysis of social movements: (1) the relationship between structural change and transformations in patterns of social conflict; (2) the role of cultural representations in social conflict; (3) the process of transforming values, interests, and ideas into collective action; and (4) an examination of how social, political and/or cultural context affects a movements’ chance of success and the forms they take (Della Porta and Diani, 2006). The objective of the course is to develop participants’ understanding of social movements through social and political theory and research, and to encourage informed reflection on their own activities or observations of protest, contention and social movements. Case studies will be used to illustrate some of the mechanisms and processes of social movement theory. Case studies under examination will include the following: the Canadian labour movement, anti-globalization protests, the global rise of Islamic fundamentalism, and the growth of right-wing fundamentalists in the U.S., among others.

**Required TEXTS:**

Donatella Della Porta, Mario Diani. 2006. *Social Movements: An Introduction (2nd Edition).* Malden, MA: Blackwell.

McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, Mayer N. Zald (Editors). 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Additional readings or resources may be left at the library reference desk.

**Note: You may be required to purchase a photocopied set of readings.**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**

##### **Week 1:**

**Activity:**  Introduction and overview of the course, including course expectations, oral presentation sign-up dates, email list, grading scheme, readings, student presentations, reading journals and essays.

**Reading:** McAdam et al., “Introduction.” (Optional, but highly recommended)

**Lecture:** A brief introduction: What are Social Movements?

##### **Week 2:**

*N.B.: Please note that there will be NO CLASS on May 3rd due to a prior commitment. Given the short timeframe for this course, I suggest that you use this extra evening to research and plan your oral presentation topic, reading journals and essay proposal.*

##### **Week 3**:

**Theme:** Core Questions of Social Movement Analysis

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 1. Tarrow, Introduction and Chapter 1.

**Week 4: Theme:** Social Changes and Social Movements

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 2. Tarrow, Chapters 2-3.

### Reading Journal #1 Due

**Week 5: Theme:**

Collective Action: The Symbolic Dimension

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 3. McAdam et al., Chapter 11.Tarrow, Chapter 7.

##### **Week 6:**

**Theme:** Collective Action and Identity

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 4. McAdam et al., Chapter 9. Tarrow, Chapter 4.

### Reading Journal #2 Due

##### **Week 7:**

**Theme:** Collective Action, Individuals, Networks and Participation

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 5. McAdam, et al., Chapter 4. Tarrow, Chapter 9.

*Research Paper Proposal Due*

###### **Week 8:**:

**Theme:** Social Movements and Organizations

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 6.McAdam, et al., Chapter 6. Tarrow, Chapter 8.

### Reading Journal #3 Due

##### **Week 9**

**Theme:** Protest and Social Action

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 7. McAdam, et al., Chapter 3. Tarrow, Chapter 6.

##### **Week 10:**:

**Theme:** Political Opportunities for Social Movements

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 8. McAdam et al., Chapter 12 Tarrow, Chapter 5.

### Reading Journal #4 Due

##### **Week** 11:

**Theme:** Social Movements and Democracy

**Readings:** Della Porta and Diani, Chapter 9. McAdam, et al., Chapter 5. Tarrow, Chapters 10-11.

##### **Week** 13-14:

**Theme:** Summing It Up: The Future of Social Movements Tarrow, Conclusion. McAdam, et al., Chapter 1.

**Week 15:** *Final Research Paper presentation*