

# **Social Movements and Protests**

POL 345U  
Spring 2021

Harrison Hall 204  
Thur 2:50pm – 4:10pm

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Reuning (ROY-ning)  
Email: [reunink@miamioh.edu](mailto:reunink@miamioh.edu)  
Course Website: Canvas  
Office: Harrison Hall 222  
Office Hours: 1 - 3pm Mon & Tues  
Schedule appointments:  
<https://calendly.com/reuning>

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## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to better understand social movements. Social movements are a critical component of modern governance. We will analyze how movements form, who participates in social movements, what they do, and how they can be successful. Although the focus will be on American social movements we will not be limited to that.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to define what social movements are and explain theories for their mobilization.
2. Students will demonstrate evidence-based reasoning by writing a paper on a particular social movement and using evidence to argue how this movement fits into the theories we study.
3. Student will critically assess the methodologies used to study social movements and when particular methods are and are not appropriate.
4. Students will be able to explain the mobilization of contemporary social movements using the theories that we discuss in class.
5. Students will be able to explain the role of social movements in a modern democracy and evaluate the normative implications of their impact.

## **Required Books**

- Tarrow, Sidney G. 2011. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics* 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521155724
- Chong, Dennis. 1991. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226104416

**Masks are mandatory for any in-person meeting.**

## Course Policies

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### Hybrid/Online Plan

I will be posting weekly videos and a short canvas activity on Mondays. You will be expected to watch these videos and complete the activity before coming to class on Thursday. On Thursday the class will be divided in half, with half of the class attending from 2:50 to 3:25, and the second set attending from 3:35 to 4:10. During this time period there will be a short lecture, and then we will have in-class work and discussions.

### Respect

This course will discuss and tackle issues where opinions can differ, and where opinions can be strongly held. We will do so with respect for all members of the class, in a way that everyone feels welcome to share and discuss. It is also important to remember that this is a *political science* class, not a discussion of politics. We will be discussing how movements mobilize around a variety of issues, but we will not, necessarily, be discussing our own opinions on the issues. I do not expect anyone to be detached from the subject matter, as these are important subjects, but I do expect everyone to remain focused on the goals of the class: understanding how and why people engage in contentious politics.

### Preparation

This is a 300 level courses and so you will be expected to do the readings for the day prior to coming to class along with doing the canvas activity. In addition, given the nature of the course, I expect you to be aware of current events. Class discussion will revolve around translating what we have been discussing in class to social movements, including contemporary movements. As such, you will be better prepared to participate if you are aware of what is happening.

### Technology

In class you are expected to be focused on what is going on within the class. You may use a laptop to take notes or review materials during class. If laptops become a distraction I have the right to change this policy.

### Email Policy

I will check email between 8am and 6pm, and will try to always respond to any contact within 24 hours. Although I do not expect formality in email communications, I do expect you to respect that emails are not a costless act. In addition, just as I am responsive to email you must be responsive to email as well. Email is how the world runs.

## Grade Distribution and Assignments

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Item	Percentage
Weekly Activities and Attendance	20%
Movement Analysis Project	
Movement History	5%
Macro Theory Application	10%
Final Memo	20%
Presentation	5%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

## **Weekly Activities and Attendance**

There will be short Canvas activities every week that will be graded on a 5 point scale based on completion. You will get full credit if you make a full attempt at answering all questions. You will not get full credit if you have copied and pasted answers from the slides, readings the internet, or each other. These assignments will be due by Thursday at 11:40am.

In addition to the activities there will be weekly in-person meetings on Thursday. You will be expected to attend your assigned in-person class time and will also receive 5 points for that. If for whatever reason you do not attend them you must email me that week with at least 1 question you have about that week's content. This will serve as a check in. If you consistently miss them then we will figure out an alternative system. You will have two weeks from the missed class to email me, after that you cannot receive credit.

If, for whatever reason, you cannot attend class for 2 or more weeks in a row you will be expected to contact me to work out a schedule. If you do not contact me within the first 2 weeks you miss class, you will not be able to receive any credit on the assignments you missed.

## **Movement Analysis Project**

For this class you will select a social movement that you will analyze. Throughout the semester you will turn in 2 written assignments on the social movement. Each written assignment will be 3 pages double spaced. At the end of the semester you will combine these assignments into a single description and analysis of the movement. When combining these assignments into a single memo you will have to add an intro, and a conclusion, making it 8 pages in total. This will also give you a chance to rework any sections that you had trouble on. The details for each sub-assignment are below.

### **Selecting a movement**

You will be given a list of potential movements to pick from. Any movement can be picked by at most 3 people. You will work with those 3 people on the presentation, but nothing else. You will pick through Canvas Groups and so this will be first come first serve. Movements must be picked by February 9th.

1. **History of the Movement** In this paper you will discuss when the movement appeared, what demands the movement made and how the movement evolved over time. If the movement is no longer inactive you should discuss when they became inactive. You do not need to explain *why* any of these things happen, just *what* happened. You should focus on the movement, not the policies that the movement supported. **Due Tuesday March 18. 3 pages double spaced.**
2. **Macro Theory Application** In this paper you will apply one of the macro theories of movements we have discussed to explain part of your social movement. You will have to explain the theory, then discuss how it applies to the movement you studied. This will include evidence about the movement, drawn from scholarly work or other similar sources. It is perfectly fine to claim that the theory does *not* explain the movement well. **Due Tuesday, April 15. 3 pages double spaced.**

The final combined paper is **due on Thursday May 6th**. You will take the pieces you put together and combine them into a single cohesive paper outlining the history of the movement. and the analysis of that history. You will also provide a 1 page coversheet explaining what changes you have made.

### **Presentation**

Finally, throughout the semester you will present on your social movement. These will be *short* presentations meant to give other students some history of your movement. You will cover the same topics as identified in your first paper. If there are multiple students who have selected the same project they will present together.

Every member of the group is expected to present some part of it.

### Midterm

Will cover the first half of the course, up through our discussion of framing. It will take place online on March, 11th. We will have a review the session before where we will discuss the format of the exam.

### Final

Will cover the second half of the course, it will *not* be cumulative. It will take on May 11th and will be online. We will have a review the session before the end of the semester where we will discuss the format of the exam.

### Extra Credit

I will provide several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester and will announce them in class and on Canvas.

### Late work policy

In order to receive a deadline extension you should contact me more than 24 hours before the deadline. If an assignment is turned in late without an extension but within 24 hours of the due date, your grade will decrease by 5 percentage points (a 95% would become a 90%). For every additional 24 hours after this it loses another 5%.

### Letter Grade Distribution

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 67.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<59.99	F

### Academic Integrity

Miami University is a scholarly community whose members believe that excellence in education is grounded in qualities of character as well as of intellect. We respect the dignity of other persons, the rights and property of others, and the right of others to hold and express disparate beliefs. We believe in honesty, integrity, and the importance of moral conduct. We defend the freedom of inquiry that is the heart of learning and combine that freedom with the exercise of judgment and the acceptance of personal responsibility.

Miami demands the highest standards of professional conduct from its students, faculty, and staff. As a community of scholars, our fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Integrity in research and creative activities and in academic study is based on sound disciplinary practices and expectations, as well as a commitment to the values of honesty and integrity.

Any student caught committing academic dishonesty will, at a minimum, receive a 0 for the assignment at hand. For more information on academic dishonesty and potential punishments visit <http://MiamiOH.edu/integrity>.

## Disability Services

If you are a student with a physical, learning, medical and/or psychiatric disability and feel that you may need a reasonable accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of the course that are listed in this syllabus, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 529-1541 (V/TTY), located in the Shriver Center, Room 304.

## Course Outline

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**January 26 and 28** Introduction to Class and Political Science

No Reading

### What are Social Movements? What do they look like?

**February 2 and 4** What is a Social Movement

- Read: Chapter 2 of *Theories of Political Protest and Social Movements* by Karl-Dieter Opp

**February 9 and 11** Repertoires of Contention

**Select social movements by midnight on February 9**

- Tarrow, Chapter 5
- Ma, Tracy, Natalie Shutler, Jonah Engel Bromwich and Shae O'Neil. 2020. "Why Protest Tactics Spread Like Memes" *The New York Times* July 31. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/31/style/viral-protest-videos.html>

### Why do individuals get involved in social movements?

**February 16 and 18** The Free Rider Problem

- Chong, Chapter 1 & 2

**February 23 and 25** Selective Incentives

- Chong, Chapter 3 & 4

### What leads to new social movements appearing or old social movements re-energizing?

**March 2 and 4** Strain/Breakdown and Resource Mobilization

- Tarrow, Chapter 1
- Cress, Daniel M. and David A. Snow. 1996. "Mobilization at the Margins: Resources, Benefactors, and the Viability of Homeless Social Movement Organizations" *American Sociological Review* 61(6):1089-1109.

**March 9 and 11** Midterm

**March 9: Wellness Day NO CLASS**

- March 11

**March 16 and 18** Political Opportunity Structure

**History of Movement Due at midnight on March 18th**

- Tarrow, Chapter 8
- Kurzman, Charles. 1996. "Structural Opportunity and Perceived Opportunity in Social-Movement Theory: The Iranian Revolution of 1979." *American Sociological Review* 61(1):153-170.

**March 23 and 25** Framing and Emotion in Social Movements

**March 25: Wellness Day NO CLASS**

- Tarrow, Chapter 7
- Casas, Andreu and Nora Webb Williams. 2019. "Images that Matter: Online Protests and the Mobilizing Role of Pictures." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(2):360-375.

**March 30 and April 1** Combining Theories and Repression

- Hewitt, Lyndi and Holly McCammon. 2004. "Explaining Suffrage Mobilization: Balance, Neutralization, and Range in Collective Action Frames, 1892-1919." *Mobilization* 9(2):149-166
- Koerth, Maggie and Jamiles Lartey 2020. "Why So Many Police Are Handling the Protests Wrong." *The Marshall Project*, June 1. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/06/01/why-so-many-police-are-handling-the-protests-wrong>

**Who actually protests and what happens to them?**

**April 6 and 8** Who Participates in Social Movements?

**Movement Presentations**

- Munson, Ziad. 2010. "Mobilizing on Campus: Conservative Movements and Today's College Students" *Sociological Forum*. 25(4):769-786.

**April 13 and 15** Participation: What happens after you participate?

**Macro Theory Application due at midnight on April 15th**

- McAdam, Doug. 1989. "The Biographical Consequences of Activism" *American Sociological Review*. 54(5):744-760.

**April 20 and 22** Participation: Leadership and Social Movements

**Movement Presentations**

- Chong pages 90-100 and 112-135

**Contemporary Discussions of Movements**

**April 27 and 29** Does the Internet Matter?

**Movement Presentations**

- Rohlinger, Deana A. and Leslie A. Bunnage. 2018. "Collective Identity in the Digital Age: Thin and Thick Identities in MoveOn.Org and the Tea Party Movement." *Mobilization* 23(2):135-157.

**May 4 and 6** Antifa and the White Power Movement

**Final paper due at Midnight on May 6th**

- White Power Movement

\* Listen to or or read the transcript of this interview: Rise of the White Power Movement with Kathleen Belew

– Antifa

\* Selections from: Bray, Mark. 2019. *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*. Melville House.

### **May 11 Final**

– May 11: 3 to 5pm

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## **Additional Resources**

- Howe Writing Center: <http://miamioh.edu/hcwe>
- Students also may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to call Student Counseling Service (513-529-4634). For emergencies outside of business hours, the Community and Counseling and Crisis Center (844-427-4747) has a 24-hour hotline.
- Students come to Miami from a variety of economic backgrounds. If you are having financial trouble I urge you to make use of the services available through Miami Cares Resources: <https://www.miamioh.edu/emss/offices/student-success-center/miami-cares/index.html>