

Social Movements and Protests

POL 345U
Spring 2023

Harrison Hall 202
Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM — 9:50 AM

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Reuning (ROY-ning)

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Course Website: Canvas

Office: Harrison Hall 222

Office Hours: 12 — 2 PM Tues & Thurs

Schedule appointments: <https://calendly.com/reuning>

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

Course Policies

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

Item	Percentage
Weekly Quizzes (10 best quizzes)	30%
Attendance and Activities	15%
Movement Analysis Project	
Movement History	15%
Macro Theory Application	15%
Final Paper	25%

Weekly Quizzes

There will be short Canvas quizzes every week that will be graded on a 5 point scale. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz, and will often be given time in-class to complete them. The purpose here is not necessarily to judge what you have learned but to make sure you are engaged in the weeks readings and discussions. You will be given 12 quizzes throughout the semester and only your best 10 will be used for your final score (so if you miss one or do poorly on a few it won't matter). **Quiz will need to be completed by Sunday at midnight.**

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 paper you will have to add an intro, and a conclusion, making it approximately 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 Historical 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 7th.

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 March 14 at midnight.**
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 April 11 at midnight.**

The final combined paper is **due on the day our final is scheduled**. 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.

Attendance and Activities

I will take attendance in this course as previous student feedback has made it clear that this is necessary. Each class day will be counted as 2.5 points. Every student will get 2 free absences, without any questions asked. These will be applied to the first 2 absences.

Throughout the semester we will work on in-class activities. You will be graded in your participation in these activities. If you miss class you need to check the modules on canvas. I will post any activity we did there and you will be expected to submit it in an email to me within a week of the class you missed. These assignments will be worth 5 points total (equivalent to a week's worth of attendance).

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.**

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%.

If you miss a weekly quiz and have not contacted me ahead of time then you will receive 0 on it. There will be **no exceptions** to this.

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

January 24 and 26 Introduction to Class and Political Science

No Reading

What are Social Movements? What do they look like?

January 31 and February 2 What is a Social Movement

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

February 7 and 9 Repertoires of Contention

Select social movements by midnight on February 7

- 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 14 and 16 The Free Rider Problem

- Chong, Chapter 1 & 2

February 21 and 23 Selective Incentives

- Chong, Chapter 3 & 4

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

February 28 and March 2 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 7 and 9 Political Opportunity Structure

- Tarrow, Chapter 8

- Williams, Dana W. and Matthew T. Lee. 2012. "Aiming to Overthrow the State (Without Using the State): Political Opportunities for Anarchist Movements." *Comparative Sociology* 11:558-593.

March 14 and 16 Framing in Social Movements

Macro Theory Application due March 14 at midnight

- Tarrow, Chapter 7
- Michelle S. Phelps, Anneliese Ward, Dwjuan Frazier. 2021. "From Police Reform to Police Abolition? How Minneapolis Activists Fought to Make Black Lives Matter." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*, 26(4):421-441.

March 21 and 23 Spring Break

No Class

March 28 and 30 Combining Theories and Anarchism

- Hewitt, Lyndi and Holly McCammon. 2004. "Explaining Suffrage Mobilization: Balance, Neutralization, and Range in Collective Action Frames, 1892-1919." *Mobilization* 9(2):149-166
- Williams, Dana M. and Matthew T. Lee. 2012. "Aiming to Overthrow the State (Without Using the State): Political Opportunities for Anarchists Movements." *Comparative Sociology* 11:558-593

April 4 and 6 Interactions with Police and Repression

- 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>
- Earl, Jennifer, Thomas V. Maher, and Jennifer Pan. 2022. "The digital repression of social movements, protest, and activism: A synthetic review." *Science Advances* 8(10).

Who actually protests and what happens to them?

April 11 and 13 Who Participates in Social Movements?

Macro Theory Application due April 11 at midnight

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

April 18 and 20 Participation: Consequences and Leadership

- McAdam, Doug. 1989. "The Biographical Consequences of Activism" *American Sociological Review*. 54(5):744-760.
- Chong pages 90-100 and 112-135
- April 20th: Guest Speaker Rick Momeyer (Former SNCC Staffer)

Contemporary Discussions of Movements

April 25 and 27 Does the Internet Matter?

- 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 2 and 4 Antifa and the White Power Movement

- White Power Movement
 - * Listen to or read the transcript of this interview: Rise of the White Power Movement with Kathleen Belew
- Antifa
 - * Copsey, Nigel. 2018. "Militant Antifascism: An Alternative (Historical) Reading." *Society* 55:243-247.

Finals Week Final Paper

Final paper due at midnight on final exam day

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>