

# MOBILIZATION POLITICS

Fall 2008

Political Science 225  
Haverford College

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## Course Description

Public confidence in the conventional institutions and processes of American politics and government dropped precipitously in the 1960s and 1970s and remains relatively low even today. Polls show that many citizens distrust the presidency, Congress, bureaucracy, and political parties, while they view politicians as corrupt and the political system as unresponsive to their needs and interests.

At the same time, there has been a veritable explosion in grassroots politics during the past few decades. Instead of relying so much on elected and appointed officials to make important political decisions, Americans are increasingly assuming a more direct role in addressing the major issues that shape their lives. This course examines the phenomenon of mass mobilization by exploring the various means by which ordinary citizens become active in politics in order to effect meaningful change.

We will begin by focusing on the role of protest movements. Why does organized, collective protest emerge from time to time? Why do some individuals decide to participate in a movement? How are movements organized? What strategies and tactics have been most effective? What impacts have oppositional movements had on politics and society in the U.S.? We will then consider other manifestations of grassroots activism, including the rise of citizen groups and their influence within the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, the increasing use of ballot initiatives to advance popular causes, and the spread of community organizing at the municipal level. We will conclude by assessing the condition of American democracy in light of the expansion of grassroots politics.

## Requirements

Class participation	20%
First analytical paper	20%
Second analytical paper	20%
Research paper	40%

## **Texts**

- Jo Freeman and Victoria Johnson, eds., *Waves of Protest: Social Movements since the Sixties* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999)
- Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless: Moving Feminist Protest inside the Church and Military* (Princeton University Press, 1998)
- David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
- Ruth Milkman, *L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the U.S. Labor Movement* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006)

All other assigned readings will be available through Blackboard.

## **Topics and Readings**

### Week 1

- I. Introduction to Course
  - II. Grassroots Movements
    - A. The Role of Protest in American Politics
- David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Chs.1-2

### Week 2

- B. The Emergence of Protest
- Roberta Ann Johnson, "Mobilizing the Disabled" (F&J, Ch.2)
- Bob Edwards and John D. McCarthy, "Resources and Social Movement Mobilization" in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, eds. David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi
- Nicole Raeburn, "Building and Benefiting from the Movement" in *Changing Corporate America from the Inside Out: Lesbian and Gay Workplace Rights*
- Doug McAdam, "The Political Process Model" in *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*

### Week 3

- C. Recruitment and Participation
- David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Ch.3
- David A. Snow, Louis A. Zurcher, Jr., and Sheldon Ekland-Olson, "Social Networks and Social Movements: A Microstructural Approach to Differential Recruitment," *American Sociological Review*, vol. 45 (1980)

- Kathleen M. Blee, "The Racist Self" in *Inside Organized Racism: Women in the Hate Movement*
- Eric L. Hirsch, "Sacrifice for the Cause: Group Processes, Recruitment, and Commitment in a Student Social Movement," (F&J, Ch.3)
- James M. Jasper, "Recruiting Intimates, Recruiting Strangers: Building the Contemporary Animal Rights Movement" (F&J, Ch.4)
- John C. Green, "The Spirit Willing: Collective Identity and the Development of the Christian Right" (F&J, Ch. 8)
- Verta Taylor and Nancy E. Whittier, "Collective Identity in Social Movement Communities: Lesbian Feminist Mobilization" (F&J, Ch.9)

#### Week 4

#### D. Leadership and Organization

- Aldon D. Morris and Suzanne Staggenborg, "Leadership in Social Movements" in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, eds. David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi
- David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Ch. 4
- Suzanne Staggenborg, "The Consequences of Professionalization and Formalization in the Pro-Choice Movement," (Ch.6, F&J)
- Luther P. Gerlach, "The Structure of Social Movements: Environmental Activism and Its Opponents" (Ch.5, F&J)
- Abigail Halcli, "AIDS, Anger, and Activism: ACT UP As a Social Movement" (Ch.7, F&J)

#### **Research Paper Proposal Due**

#### Week 5

#### E. Strategies and Tactics

- David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Chs.5-6
- Herbert H. Haines, "Black Radicalization and the Funding of Civil Rights: 1957-1970," *Social Problems*, vol. 32 (1984): 31-43.
- Mark J. Rozell and Clyde Wilcox, "Second Coming: The Strategies of the New Christian Right," *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 111 (Summer 1996): 271-294.
- Victoria Johnson, "The Strategic Determinants of a Countermovement: The Emergence and Impact of Operation Rescue Blockades" (F&J, Ch. 12)
- Kathleen J. Fitzgerald and Diane M. Rogers, "Radical Social Movement Organizations: A Theoretical Model," *The Sociological Quarterly*, Fall 2000
- Amy Farrell, "'Like a Tarantula on a Banana Boat': *Ms.* Magazine, 1972-1989" in *Feminist Organizations*, eds. Myra Marx Ferree and Patricia Yancey Martin

## Week 6

### F. A Movement Society?

David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Chs.7-8

Frederick D. Miller, "The End of SDS and the Emergence of Weatherman: Demise through Success" (Ch.15, F&J)

### G. The Impacts of Protest

David S. Meyer, *The Politics of Protest*, Ch.9

Paul Burstein, "Social Movements and Public Policy" in *How Social Movements Matter*, eds. Marco Giugni, Doug McAdam, and Charles Tilly

Nancy Whittier, "The Consequences of Social Movements for Each Other" in *Social Movements*, eds. David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi

Film in class: "Rebels with a Cause"

## First Analytical Paper Due

## Week 7

## Fall Break

## III. Case Studies of Grassroots Movements

## Week 8

### A. Mobilizing the Marginalized: Immigrants and the Labor Movement

Ruth Milkman, *L.A. Story*, Chs.1-3

## Week 9

Ruth Milkman, *L.A. Story*, Ch.4

Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, Chs.1-2

Film in class: "Occupation: The Harvard Living Wage Sit-In"

## Week 10

### B. Transforming Consciousness: The Women's Movement

Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, *Faithful and Fearless*, Chs.3-6

#### IV. Public Interest Groups

Weeks 11-12

##### A. Lobbying

Paul Burstein, "Interest Organizations, Political Parties, and the Study of Democratic Politics" in *Social Movements and American Political Institutions*, eds. Anne N. Costain and Andrew S. McFarland

Jeffrey M. Berry, "The Rise of Citizen Groups" in *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, eds. Theda Skocpol and Morris P. Fiorina

David Vogel, "The Public-Interest Movement and the American Reform Tradition" in *Kindred Strangers: The Uneasy Relationship between Politics and Business in America*

Kelly D. Patterson and Matthew M. Singer, "The National Rifle Association in the Face of the Clinton Challenge" in *Interest Group Politics*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., eds. Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis

Mrill Ingram and Helen Ingram, "Creating Credible Edibles: The Organic Agriculture Movement and the Emergence of U.S. Federal Organic Standards" in *Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy, and Democracy*, eds. David S. Meyer, Valerie Jenness, and Helen Ingram

##### B. Litigation

Stuart A. Scheingold, "Legal Rights and Political Mobilization" in *The Politics of Rights: Lawyers, Public Policy, and Political Change*

Michael McCann and J. Dudas, "Retrenchment ... and Resurgence? Mapping the Changing Context of Movement Lawyering in the U.S." in *Cause Lawyers and Social Movements*, eds. Austin Sarat and Stuart A. Scheingold

Stephen Meili, "Consumer Cause Lawyers in the U.S.: Lawyers for the Movement unto Themselves?" in *Cause Lawyers and Social Movements*, eds. Austin Sarat and Stuart A. Scheingold

Anna-Maria Marshall, "Social Movement Strategies and the Participatory Potential of Litigation" in *Cause Lawyers and Social Movements*, eds. Austin Sarat and Stuart A. Scheingold

#### **Research Paper Due**

Week 13

#### V. Direct Democracy

John G. Matsusaka, "Direct Democracy Works," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 19 (Spring 2005)

Richard J. Ellis, "A Tale of Two Initiatives" in *Democratic Delusions: The Initiative Process in America*

Caroline J. Tolbert, "Direct Democracy and Institutional Realignment in the American States," *Political Science Quarterly* (2003)

Week 14

VI. Community Organizing

Saul Alinsky, "Protest Tactics" in *The Social Movements Reader*, eds. Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper

Mark Warren, "A Theology of Organizing: From Alinsky to the Modern IAF" in *The Community Development Reader*, eds. James DeFilippis and Susan Saegert

Heidi Swarts, "Political Opportunity, Venue Shopping, and Strategic Innovation: ACORN's National Organizing" in *Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenges of Political Change*, ed. Marion Orr

Peter Dreier, "Community Organizing for What? Progressive Politics and Movement Building in America" in *Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenges of Political Change*, ed. Marion Orr

Week 15

VII. The Future of Grassroots Politics in America

Ronald Inglehart, "Changing Values in Post-Industrial Societies" in *The Social Movements Reader*, eds. Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper

Kevin Phillips, "The Principal Weaknesses of American Politics and Government" in *Arrogant Capital: Washington, Wall Street, and the Frustration of American Politics*

John Mueller, "Consequences of the Democratic Image" in *Capitalism, Democracy, and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocer*

**Second Analytical Paper Due at End of Exam Period**