

PSC 5323

**Advocacy, Policy,
and
Social Movements**

MPA
**MASTER OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

Instructor: Dr. Jamie Smith
Class Time: Weekends
Class Location: 221 Learning Center

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Course Description

Social movements and protests are, in many ways, a seemingly consistent part of political life. In modern terms, movements have often been praised a check on elites who ignore the demands and grievances of the people. However, when viewed in the historical context, this is a relatively modern development. Social movements, protests, and mass advocacy were seen as deviant as recently as the 1950s. Scholars and commentators alike have historically viewed the emergence of social movements as a sign of systemic strain/breakdown. The political movements of the 1960s, both in the US and around the world, altered the way that movements are discussed. We will largely discuss the scholarly view of approaches resulting as reaction of the 1950s thinking.

Using this literature, we will examine the theoretical and empirical approaches used to understand why social movements form, why people join groups, how/when groups can affect policy change, and what does it mean for a social movement to be successful. In doing so, we will examine primarily US cases, but as movements are increasingly globalized we may examine transnational movements as well. Finally, we will pay special attention to the impact of changing communications structures on social movements. In the last part of the course we will address how the emergence of and evolution new information and communication technologies have affected both the social movements and the study of social movements.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course, students who have participated fully in the course should be able to:

1. think critically about the impact of mass advocacy on the policy process
2. use key theoretical approaches and empirical research to analyze social movements

3. analyze the impact of new information and communication technologies on modern advocacy and movements

Textbook and Course Readings

There are three required texts for this course:

1. Karpf. The MoveOn Effect. (2012) ISBN 978-0199898381
2. Lochner. Collective Behavior. (2001). ISBN 978-0130886682
3. Tarrow, Power in Movements. (2011). ISBN: 978-0521155724

Additional required reading material(s) may be indicated in the Course Schedule. All required reading material, with the exception of textbook material, is available on the course D2L site.

Assignments

Individual Participation

Active participation is one of the best and most reliable ways to demonstrate your understanding of ideas and concepts discussed in the readings and presented in class. My role (as the instructor for this course) is to provide you with a conceptual framework and to facilitate your learning. My role is not merely to deliver factual material to passive learners. The exercises and discussions in this course are intended to provide you with an opportunity to test your knowledge, formulate ideas and strategies, respond to strategic management dilemmas, and get feedback from peers. Therefore, weekly class attendance is necessary, but not sufficient for an excellent class participation grade.

Reflection Paper

Before each class, submit a five page reflection on the readings to be discussed that weekend. These papers should contain summary of the assigned readings and themes, a brief evaluative response to the material discussed or read, and a concise account of the relationship between the material under consideration as presented in readings, lectures, and discussion.

Group Paper

The final project should be an evaluation of a chosen issue campaign, movement, or social change product. The chosen topic can be either a present or historical movement. Groups should work together to apply the concepts studied through the course of this class to their chosen movement. Examples include, Occupy Wall Street, ACTUP (early activism in the AIDS epidemic), the Trans Rights Movement, Gay

Marriage Movement, Women's Suffrage Movement, etc. The topic must be approved by the instructor no later than the end of class on 6/4.

Summary of Graded Assignments

Outcome/Deliverable	Type	Description	Value
Participation	Individual		10%
Reflection Papers	Individual	A reflection on each week's readings	45% (at 15% each)
Group Presentation	Group**	A presentation of the analysis contained in the final paper	15%
Group Paper	Group**	A complete written analysis of chosen movement	30%

*The instructor reserves the right to add, remove, or reorder these assignments at her discretion and in accordance with university policy

**As a substantial part of the final grade for this course relies on group work, students will be given the opportunity to individual evaluate each group member's contribution to the final product after each assignment.

Information and Reminders

Accommodation Policy

The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course.

Religious Observance Policy

It is the policy of the University of Oklahoma to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. If class conflicts with a religious observance, please notify me at least 24 hours before the class in question so we may schedule appropriate make up assignments.

Internet Information

This course will make use of D2L. Internet access and access to this platform are required for success in the course. Slides, revisions to the syllabus, readings, announcements, changes to this syllabus, etc. can all be found in the appropriate folder on the D2L page for this course.

The primary means of communication for this course will be email. Be sure to check your OU-issued email regularly.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All assignments are due in the D2L at the specified time. Late assignments will be accepted for four days after the due date with a late penalty of 10 percent assessed for each day, class or otherwise, that it is late. Illness, schedule conflicts, family problems, computer issues are not valid reasons for late assignments—plan/work ahead and back up your work!

Make-up exams will be given only in extraordinary circumstances. Students are permitted to take a make-up exam/presentation only in the case of documented illness, death in the family, and approved university activity. Notification of missed exams must be received prior to the due date.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Professors have to obey rules of honest scholarship, and so do students. For more information about academic integrity, including a statement of what constitutes academic misconduct and plagiarism, see OU's "A Student's Guide to Academic Integrity" at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/>. When writing about, paraphrasing, or quoting the work of others, you must give proper attribution in the form of parenthetical citations and quotation marks around directly quoted phrases or sentences. Using work in this class that you have completed for another class is plagiarism. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism. Any work not resulting from the student's own efforts will result in a grade of 0 and be turned in to the property authorities. This includes plagiarized papers, copied assignments, cheating on exams, or any other dishonest activity.

Course Schedule

Date	Time	Topic	Readings	Assignments**
6/3	5:30 - 8:30 pm	What are political advocacy and social movements?	Tarrow, <i>Power in Movement</i> , Chapter 1 Lochner Chapter 13	Reflection Paper 1
6/4	9am - 5 pm	Contentious Politics and Group Formation	Aldrich, <i>Why Parties?</i> , Ch 2 [In class] Tarrow, Part I (Ch. 2-5) Tarrow, Part II (Ch. 6-9)	
6/5	1 pm - 4 -pm	Dynamics of contention	Tarrow Part III (Ch. 10-14)	
6/10	5:30 - 8:30 pm	The problem of collective action	Mancur Olson [D2L] Lochner, Ch 1	Reflection Paper 2
6/11	9am - 5 pm	Dynamics of Collective Behavior	Lochner Ch. 2-6 Tilly, "Social Movements as Specific Clusters of Political Performances" [D2L]	
6/12	1 pm - 4 -pm	What is success?	Lochner Chapter 15	
6/17	5:30 - 8:30 pm	New generation of movements	Karpf, <i>Moveon Effect</i> , Ch. 1-2	Reflection Paper 3
6/18	9am - 5 pm	Tools for online advocacy	Karpf, <i>Moveon Effect</i> , Ch. 3-7	
6/19	1 pm - 4 -pm	Challenges of the internet	Bimber, Flanagan, Stool (2005) [D2L]	Presentations
7/10				Final Paper

*The Instructor reserves the right to add to, remove, or reorder these assignments as she sees fit and in accordance with university policy

**The reflection papers are due before the start of each Friday session.