SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD

Fall 2010 GOV 312L (38450) Tues/Thurs 12:30–2:00 Mezes Hall 1.306

PROFESSOR:

Wendy Hunter Department of Government Batts 3.138

Office Hours: Tues and Thurs, 11:00-12:00 and 2:00-3:00

wendyhunter@austin.utexas.edu

Phone: 232–7247

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Ayca Arkilic ayca_arkilic@yahoo.com
Office Hours in Batts 1.118:
Mon 12:30–2:00, Wed 9:30–11:00

Mine Tafolar minetka2001@yahoo.com Office Hours in Batts 1.118: Mon 11:00–12:30, Wed 3:30–5:00

In recent decades, social movements have mobilized people concerned about issues ranging from the rights of women and ethnic minorities to the environment, human rights, and world peace. These new social movements are frequently distinguished by the socio-economic heterogeneity of their members, the informal and fluid nature of their organization, the uneasy relationship they have to established political institutions, and the unconventional forms of protest they employ.

This course will examine and analyze the origins, modes of action, and impact of movements centered on three issues: women, racial minorities, and the environment. Comparisons will be made between the civil rights movement in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, feminism in the United States and Chile, and the Greens in West Germany and Brazilian efforts to diminish the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. The course concludes with an examination of transnational activism.

The goal of this comparative enterprise will be to examine how different socio-economic and political contexts shape social movements based on somewhat common issues. For example, in many developing societies, where great numbers of people are poor, uneducated, and often intimidated by authoritarian governments, social movements face particularly stiff obstacles to organization. International attention and support have often been necessary to protect these movements. By contrast, in the advanced industrial West, basic human rights are more likely to be guaranteed and an articulate middle class with a sense of political efficacy is more likely to assure the success of a social movement. In this vein, the course will analyze how social movements emerge and function within existing structures of politics, and how they try to create new structures of interest representation to influence policy-making.

BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE BOOK STORE

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

Clayborne Carson. 2001. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Elleke Boehmer. 2008. *Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ruth Rosen. 2000. The World Split Open: How the Women's Movement Changed America. New York: Viking/Penguin.

Lisa Baldez. 2002. Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile. New York: Cambridge University Press.

A compilation of articles is also required. They are available on Blackboard.

REQUIREMENTS/ GRADE DISTRIBUTION

*Lectures: Students are responsible for all material in the lectures.

*Readings: Students are responsible for completing all weekly readings by the Tuesday session.

*Students will be evaluated according to the following:

- 1. **Two In-Class Mid-Term Examinations**. Both exams will be *in-class*, *closed-book exams* designed to test students' understanding of fundamental concepts and arguments plus key historical facts. The date of the first exam is <u>October 7</u>. The second will be held on <u>November 4</u>. More detailed instructions on each exam will follow. Please bring a blue book. Each exam will constitute **35 percent of your grade**.
- 2. Take-Home Final Exam. This will be a take home essay exam designed to test students' understanding of the major issues treated in the course. This final assignment must be handed in at the BEGINNING of class on Thursday December 2. We will not accept submissions via e-mail. This assignment will constitute 30 percent of your grade. There is a penalty of a full letter grade per day for late essays (e.g. An "A" will move down to a "B.") I will hand out the questions well in advance of the due date.

Students are expected to understand and adhere to all University regulations about cheating. Students will also be expected to observe all University procedures and deadlines for withdrawals. If you have questions about the university honor code and what constitutes plagiarism, see registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01.

Make-up policy: Students are expected to take all exams and hand in all assignments on the scheduled dates. Exceptions for the mid-terms and final exams will be made only in the event of a dire emergency, defined as a serious medical illness (accompanied by a physician's note) or death of a close family member. Excuses like weddings, out-of-town travel that does not fall under official university business, or leaving early for vacations will not be accepted.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471–6259, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of any pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day.

There will be a strict ban on the use of cell phones.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

(* on Blackboard)

WEEK 1 – AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 2: THEORETICAL ISSUES IN THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS LITERATURE

Sidney Tarrow. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Chapters 1, 5, and 6-8.

WEEK 2 – SEPTEMBER 7 AND 9: INTRODUCTION, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Clayborne Carson. 2001. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Introduction, Chapters 1–3, and Chapters 7–9.

WEEK 3 – SEPTEMBER 14 AND 16: CIVIL RIGHTS CONTINUED

Clayborne Carson. Part 2 (Chapters 10–13), Part 3 (Chapters 14–18), and Epilogue.

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 21 AND 23: MOVEMENTS AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Robert M. Price. 1991. *The Apartheid State in Crisis: Political Transformation in South Africa 1975–1990*. Chapters 1, 2, and 5.

WEEK 5 – SEPTEMBER 28 AND 30: ANTI-APARTHEID CONTINUED

*Robert M. Price. Chapters 7–8.

Elleke Boehmer. 2008. Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction. Chapters 1–4.

WEEK 6 – OCTOBER 5 AND 7: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

**FIRST MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, October 7

Ruth Rosen. 2000. The World Split Open: How the Women's Movement Changed America. Preface, Chronology, Parts 1 and 2.

WEEK 7 – OCTOBER 12 AND 14: U.S. WOMEN'S MOVEMENT CONTINUED

Ruth Rosen. Part 3 and Epilogue.

WEEK 8 – OCTOBER 19 AND 21: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN CHILE

Lisa Baldez. 2002. Why Women Protest: Women's Movements in Chile. Chapters 1–5.

WEEK 9 – OCTOBER 26 AND 28: CHILEAN WOMEN CONTINUED

Lisa Baldez. Chapters 6–8.

WEEK 10 – NOVEMBER 2 AND 4: GREEN MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST

**SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, November 4

- *E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker. 1992. Between Protest and Power: The Green Party in Germany. Introduction, Chapters 2, 3, and 5.
- *Kristine Kern, Stephanie Koenen, and Tina Löffelsend. 2004. "Red-Green Environmental Policy in Germany: Strategies and Performance Patterns." In Germany on the Road to "Normalcy". New York: Palgrave McMillan.

WEEK 11 – NOVEMBER 9 AND 11: THE GREENS CONTINUED

*E. Gene Frankland and Donald Schoonmaker. Chapters 8–9.

*Laura Blue. 2007. "Lessons from Germany." *Time*. Special on the Environment.

WEEK 12 – NOVEMBER 16 AND 18: AMAZON RAINFOREST MOVEMENTS

*Chico Mendes. 1989. Fight for the Forest. Entire book.

*Philip M. Fearnside. 2005. "Deforestation in Brazilian Amazonia: History, Rates, and Consequences." Conservation Biology 19(3): 680-688.

WEEK 13 – NOVEMBER 23: TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVISM

*Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Chapter 1. *Beth Conklin and Laura Graham. 1995. "The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-Politics." American Anthropologist 97 (4): 695-710.

*Robert F. Hartley. 2005. Business Ethics: Mistakes and Successes. Chapter 13. Sidney Tarrow. 1998. Chapter 11, "Transnational Contention."

WEEK 14 – NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 2: FINAL REFLECTIONS

No new readings.

**Final Essay to be submitted at the BEGINNING of class on December 2.