ISSUES AND POLICIES IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD

Fall 2012
GOV 312L (38620)
Tues/Thurs 9:30–11:00
SAC 1.402

PROFESSOR: Wendy Hunter
Department of Government, Batts Hall 3.138
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:15–11:45 and 2:00–3:00
wendyhunter@austin.utexas.edu
Phone: 232–7247

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:
Matthew Buehler
kate.putnum@utexas.edu

Course description: 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: race, women, and the environment. Comparisons will be made between the civil rights movement in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa; women’s movements in the United States and Chile; the Greens in West Germany and environmental activists seeking to preserve the Amazon rain forest. The goal of this comparative enterprise is to examine how different socio-economic and political contexts shape social movements based on 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. The role of transnational activism is studied in the context of the paired comparisons.
SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

This course offers an optional Supplemental Instruction (SI) discussion section in conjunction with the Sanger Learning and Career Center. Your TA will hold this discussion section twice a week for one hour (Note: the same material will be covered in both sections). The section will cover course material as well as other skills that are vital for college success such as how to organize information, test prep and test taking skills, and critical thinking and writing skills. You are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE BOOK STORE


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 Tuesday.

*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. Each exam will constitute **35 percent of your grade.** The dates for these exams will be Thursday October 11 and Tuesday November 6.

2. **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 6. 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.
There will be a strict ban on the use of laptops and cell phones.

Students are expected to understand and adhere to all University regulations about cheating, and will 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 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 and personal out-of-town travel 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.

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 plus and minus grades. Your final grade will be calculated as follows: we will sum all the points you received in the class and convert them into letter grades based on the following scale:

- 93-100 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73-76 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 63-66 = D
- 60-62 = D-
- Below 60 = F

Without exception, we will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. Students who wish to contest a grade must do so in writing within two weeks of the day on which the assignment was handed back in class. Students must go first to one of the TAs and then to the professor only if the meeting, scheduled after receipt of the written appeal, was deemed unsatisfactory.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS
(* on Blackboard)

DAY 1 – AUGUST 30: INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1 – SEPTEMBER 4 AND 6: THEORETICAL ISSUES IN THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS LITERATURE


WEEK 2 – SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES


WEEK 3 – SEPTEMBER 18 AND 20: CIVIL RIGHTS CONTINUED

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

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27: THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA


WEEK 5 – OCTOBER 2 AND 4: ANTI-APARTHEID CONTINUED


WEEK 6 – OCTOBER 9 AND 11: THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT IN THE US

**FIRST MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, October 11**

WEEK 7 – OCTOBER 16 AND 18: U.S. WOMEN’S MOVEMENT CONTINUED

Ruth Rosen. Part 3 and Epilogue.

WEEK 8 – OCTOBER 23 AND 25: WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS IN CHILE


WEEK 9 – OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 1: CHILEAN WOMEN CONTINUED

Lisa Baldez. Chapters 6–8.

WEEK 10 – NOVEMBER 6 AND 8: GREEN MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST

**SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday, November 6**


WEEK 11 – NOVEMBER 13 AND 15: THE GREENS CONTINUED

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

WEEK 12 – NOVEMBER 20: AMAZON RAINFOREST MOVEMENTS


WEEK 13 – NOVEMBER 27 AND 29: TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVISM


WEEK 14 – DECEMBER 4 AND 6: FINAL REFLECTIONS

No new readings.