

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POL 344F SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
FALL 2013

Instructor: Professor S. Bashevkin

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30 to 3 pm or by appointment

Themes: This course examines the development and impact of social movements as well as counter-movements in Canada, the United States and various European countries. Among the cases considered are those focused on sexual orientation and women's rights activism. Questions to be addressed include why particular movements emerge when they do, what relationships they develop with mainstream political institutions and how counter-movements stake their claims in opposition to movement positions.

Course requirements: One two-hour class per week; students are expected to write one quiz, one essay and one in-class test. Given the strong case study research component of the course, regular attendance is essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for discussion and as a foundation for successfully completing the quiz, essay and term test assignments.

Grading scheme:

Fall term quiz	1 hr/in class/ 21 October	25%
Fall essay	due 4 November	50%
Fall term test	2 hrs/in class/ 2 December	25%

Essay assignment: Instructions follow this outline. Essay should be handed in at the start of class on the due date. Note strictly enforced late penalty. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar. Given the highly structured emphasis on class attendance, no other essay or test assignments will be admitted as substitutes for the course requirements outlined on this syllabus.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, please see the website of Writing at the University of Toronto: www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources

Back up your work: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work, and to make hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the instructor. These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ROSI.

Late penalty for papers: A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for fall and spring essay assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and no extensions will be granted in advance of essay assignment deadlines. Papers not submitted in person to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date must be submitted in person to the Department of Political Science staff in Sidney Smith room 3018 during regular business hours, usually between 9 AM and 5 PM on weekdays only. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted. No fax or e-mail essay submissions will be accepted.

Required texts:

1. Suzanne Staggenborg, *Social Movements* (2nd ed.; Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2012).
2. Clifford Bob, *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Fall course books have been ordered at the University of Toronto Bookstore. Other readings listed below will be available on the course Blackboard site.

Requests have also been made to place sources on reserve in the UofT library system.

COURSE SCHEDULE

9 September – Introduction to course and theories of social movements (full class)

Staggenborg, chaps. 1, 2

16 September – What are cycles of protest?

Staggenborg, chaps. 3, 4

23 September – How did the US civil rights movement create what scholars term “a master framework for protest,” merging high drama with everyday acts?

Staggenborg, pp. 61-4

T.V. Reed, *The Art of Protest* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005), chapter one.

30 September -- Feminism and women’s movements

Staggenborg, chap. 6

7 October/ Gay and lesbian movements

Staggenborg, chap. 7

14 October – Thanksgiving -- **No class meeting****21 October – Fall term quiz, in class for one hour****Exploring backlash politics**

Susan Faludi, *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women* (New York: Anchor, 1991), chap. 1.

Jane Mansbridge and Shauna L. Shames, "Toward a Theory of Backlash: Dynamic Resistance and the Central Role of Power," *Politics & Gender* 4:4 (December 2008), 623-34.

Sylvia Bashevkin, "Confronting Neo-conservatism: Anglo-American Women's Movements under Thatcher, Reagan and Mulroney," *International Political Science Review* 15:3 (1994), 275-96.

28 October – Backlash on the global stage

Bob, chaps. 1, 2

4 November -- **Fall essay assignment due****Rival networks: The case of sexual diversity**

Bob, chaps. 3, 4

11 November/Fall break, no classes**18 November – Rival networks: The case of gun control & disarmament**

Bob, chaps. 5, 6

25 November – Assessing movement/counter-movement conflict

Bob, chap. 7

Staggenborg, chap. 10

2 December/Fall term test, in class

Fall Essay Assignment

Due 4 November 2013

Answer the following question in an essay of approximately 1250 words (5 double-spaced, typed pages using 12 point font). Note strictly enforced late penalty, explained earlier in this outline. Ensure that you retain back-up copies of all essay submissions.

Develop a coherent and concise response to the following question, using empirical evidence to support your position. Your essay will be assessed with reference to the quality of the argumentation, strength of the evidence assembled to defend that position, facility with key concepts and vocabulary, and ability to address contrary points of view. Students must respond directly to the question using qualitative and/or quantitative evidence; the essay assignment does not involve writing a rhetorical opinion piece or manifesto-style polemic.

In arguing that contention belongs at the core of research on social movements, Clifford Bob (2012: 16) cites Lewis Coser's statement that "social conflict is 'a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power, and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals.'" Select one social movement addressed in the Staggborg textbook, and identify a key legislative, judicial or budgetary challenge which that movement faced in a single North American or European jurisdiction. With reference to the case you select, how successfully did the competing social movements amass and deploy the necessary "status, power, and resources" to which Coser refers? Which side won?