

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POL 344S SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
SPRING 2016

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 to 2 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 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:

Spring term quiz	1 hr/in class/ 22 February	30%
Spring essay	due 7 March	45%
Spring term test	2 hrs/in class/4 April	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 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 text:

Suzanne Staggenborg and Howard Ramos, *Social Movements* (3rd ed.; Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Course book has 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

11 January – Introduction to course and theories of social movements (full class)

Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 1, 2

18 January – What are cycles of protest?

Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 3, 4

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

Staggenborg and Ramos, pp. 68-78

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

1 February -- Feminism and women’s movements

Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 6

Rebecca Klatch, *Women of the New Right* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), chap. 2.

8 February -- Gay and lesbian movements

Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 7

David Rayside, "Cross-Border Parallels at the Political Intersection of Sexuality and Religion," in David Rayside and Clyde Wilcox, eds., *Faith, Politics and Sexual Diversity* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), 357-73.

15 February – Reading week -- **No class meeting****22 February – Spring term quiz, in class for one hour****Environmental movements**

Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 8

Michael Allan Wolf, "Overtaking the Fifth Amendment: The Legislative Backlash against Environmentalism," *Fordham Environmental Law Journal* 6:3 (1994), 637-60.

29 February – Evaluating 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.

7 March -- **Essay assignment due****Pressing back against civil rights**

Sara Diamond, *Roads to Dominion: Right-Wing Movements and Political Power in the United States* (New York: Guilford, 1995), chap. 3.

Dominic Sandbrook, *Mad as Hell: The Crisis of the 1970s and the Rise of the Populist Right* (New York: Random House, 2011), chap. 6.

14 March/Contesting reproductive choice and ERA in the United States

Rosalind Pollack Petechesky, *Abortion and Women's Choice: The State, Sexuality and Reproductive Freedom* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1990), chap. 7.

Donald T. Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman's Crusade* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), chap. 9.

Tanya Melich, *The Republican War Against Women: An Insider's Report from behind the Lines* (New York: Bantam, 1996), 281-300.

21 March – Challenges to Sexual Diversity Mobilization

Tina Fetner, "Working Anita Bryant: The Impact of Christian Anti-Gay Activism on Lesbian and Gay Movement Claims," *Social Problems* 48:3 (2001), 411-28.

Thomas M. Keck, "Beyond Backlash: Assessing the Impact of Judicial Decisions on LGBT Rights," *Law and Society Review* 43:1 (2009), 151-86.

28 March – Assessing movement/counter-movement conflict

Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 10

Christopher D. Stone, "Is Environmentalism Dead?" *Environmental Law* 38:1 (2008), 19-45.

4 April/term test, in class

Essay Assignment

Due 7 March 2016

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 writing and 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 explaining the circumstances of social movements, Staggenborg and Ramos (2016: 215) conclude they "typically confront powerful adversaries and long-standing structural arrangements" which act on brakes on the success of progressive mobilization. Select one social movement addressed in this course outline, 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 effectively did the social movement press back against its main adversary? Which side won?