UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POL 344Y SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
MEETS MONDAYS 10 AM-12 NOON, SPRING 2019

Instructor: Professor S. Bashevkin  Office: Room E102, University College
Telephone: 416 978-3289  E-mail: sbashev@chass.utoronto.ca (please allow one full
day for response time during the week during the academic term)
Office Hours: Mondays 1:15 to 2:15 pm or by appointment

Themes: We focus on counter-movements or rival networks in spring term, probing backlash
against many of the social movements considered in fall term. Questions to be addressed
include why particular counter-movements emerge when they do, what organizational forms
they take, and how movements try to hold their ground in the face of counter-movement
challenges.

Course requirements and grading scheme are explained in detail in fall outline.

Essay assignment: Instructions follow this outline. Written assignment should be handed in at
the start of class on the due date. Note strictly enforced late penalty. Essays are organized in
sequential order: Students must in all cases submit the fall reflection paper as a prerequisite for
the completion of the spring analytic paper. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the
Faculty of Arts and Science calendar. Given the highly structured emphasis on class attendance
and cross-fertilization across student projects, 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: http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/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 ACORN.

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, e-mail or portal-based essay submissions will be
accepted.
Required text:

Spring course textbook has been ordered at the University of Toronto Bookstore. Other readings will be posted on the portal site for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE
7 January – Exploring backlash politics


14 January – Pressing back against civil rights


21 January – New right politics and women’s reproductive health


28 January – Anti-ERA mobilization in the US


4 February – Challenges to Sexual Diversity Mobilization


11 February – Backlash against Environmental Movements **analytic essay due**


18 February – Family Day/reading week, no class or office hour

25 February – Backlash on the global stage
Bob, chaps. 1, 2

4 March – Rival networks in the global women’s rights arena


11 March – Rival networks: The case of sexual diversity
Bob, chaps. 3, 4

18 March – Rival networks: The case of gun control & disarmament
Bob, chaps. 5, 6

25 March – Assessing movement/counter-movement conflict
Bob, chap. 7
Analytic essay assignment, due 11 February

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, originality of your work, strength of the argumentation and 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. **Try to build your response to this question from the material used in your fall reflection paper.**

Answer the following question in an essay of about 1250 words including sources and notes (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 your work.

**What theory or theories of social movement diffusion best explain the impact (or lack of impact) of one or more contemporary social movements on your life? What theory or theories are disconfirmed by your experiences? Be sure to develop your argument using a full set of lecture notes, the course textbooks and other academic sources on social movements. These materials will enable you to gain a firm understanding of social movement theory and its application to empirical cases.**