Instructor: Professor S. Bashevkin
E-mail: sbashev@chass.utoronto.ca (please allow one full day for response time during the week during the academic term)

Online delivery details: Full details on how to access various course components will be posted on the Quercus site for the course. Since this information may be updated from time to time, students are urged to regularly consult the Quercus Announcements page for POL344H.

Recorded class lectures available: Mondays 10 am
Synchronous class discussion time: Mondays 11:40 am to 12 noon
Virtual office hours: Wednesdays 4 to 5 pm/Open door on Quercus
One-on-one zoom appointments: To arrange, kindly email Professor Bashevkin at sbashev@chass.utoronto.ca

Camera use: Students are strongly encouraged to use a camera during class discussion time as well as virtual office hours. Professor Bashevkin is willing to write letters of reference for students who consistently use their cameras.

Themes: This course examines the development and impact of social movements in Canada, the United States and Western Europe. Among the cases considered are civil rights, women’s rights, sexual orientation, Indigenous and environmental activism. Questions to be addressed include why particular movements emerge when they do, what relationships they develop with mainstream political institutions and how theories of movement formation explain patterns of organized protest.

Course requirements: Asynchronous weekly lectures (recorded); synchronous weekly class discussions (not recorded). Students are expected to write one key concepts paper, one paper that applies theories of social movements and one term test. Given the strong overlap among lecture content, discussion content and student assignments, sustained immersion in weekly lecture and discussion materials is essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for weekly discussion periods and as a foundation for successfully completing the papers and term test.

Grading scheme:
- Concepts paper due 18 October 35%
- Theories paper due 15 November 40%
- Closed book test 6 December 25%

Course objectives: Strong emphasis is placed on enhancing students’ writing as well as analytic skills, particularly with respect to assessing texts, evaluating arguments and participating in a lecture-based course. Since the course has no teaching assistant, POL344 offers an opportunity
to learn about social movements through the eyes of an actively engaged research professor at the University of Toronto.

**Written assignments:** Develop a coherent, concise response to the question posed, using empirical evidence to support your position. Criteria used in the assessment of student papers are posted on the course Quercus site and include clarity of the writing and argumentation, organized sequencing of ideas, evidence of clear reasoning and support for core claims, and facility with relevant sources. Students must respond directly to the questions using qualitative and/or quantitative evidence; neither essay assignment for POL 344 involves writing a rhetorical opinion piece or manifesto-style polemic. **Students are strongly urged to reserve an early appointment with their college writing centre to ensure their two essays and term test meet writing expectations in an upper-level undergraduate course in political science at the University of Toronto.**

**Two course papers:** Instructions follow this outline. Written assignments must be submitted online via Quercus as Word documents by 11:59 pm Toronto, Ontario time on the due date. Note strictly enforced late penalty for both the reflection paper and analytic essay. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar. Given the close integration between lecture content and student work, written assignments must be completed and submitted in the order indicated on this outline. No other 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, see Writing at the University of Toronto: [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources](http://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 online to the instructor. These backup versions should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ACORN.

**Late penalty for written work:** A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for both the reflection paper and analytic essay assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and waivers will only be considered on the basis of documentation submitted to Accessibility Services or your college registrar.

**Submitting late essays:** Papers not submitted on the due date must be submitted online via Quercus as Word documents. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted.

**Missed test and re-marking practices** are consistent with standard policies of the Department of Political Science.
Required texts:

Course textbook has been ordered at the University of Toronto Bookstore, including in e-book format.

2. One (1) of the following novels in which at least one character is shaped by the presence or absence of social protest. These books are available from libraries, bookstores and online booksellers including as e-books.
   b. Anna Burns, *Milkman* (2018; won the Man Booker Prize)
   d. Michelle Good, *Five Little Indians* (2020; won Governor-General’s Award for fiction)
   e. Richard Powers, *The Overstory* (2018; won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction)

Other readings listed below will be available on the course Quercus site, which students are urged to consult regularly for course-related news and information.

COURSE SCHEDULE

13 September – Introduction to course and theories of social movements
Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 1, 2 and relevant glossary entries
First ¼ of one novel listed above under course readings

20 September – What are cycles of protest and why do they matter?
Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 3, 4 and relevant glossary entries
Second ¼ of one novel listed above under course readings

27 September – 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
Third ¼ of one novel listed above under course readings

4 October – Key social movement concepts as reflected in Alice Walker’s *Meridian*
Last ¼ of one novel listed above under course readings

11 October **Thanksgiving/No class lecture or discussion time**

18 October – Feminism and women’s movements **Concepts paper due**
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 6

25 October – Gay and lesbian movements
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 7

1 November – Indigenous protest
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 5

8 November **November break/No class meeting or class discussion**

15 November – Environmental movements **Theories paper due**
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 8

22 November – Global social justice movements
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 9
D. Christopher Brooks. “Faction in Movement: The impact of inclusivity on the anti-globalization movement,” *Social Science Quarterly* 85:3 (September 2004), 559-77.

29 November – Assessing movement/counter-movement conflict
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 10

6 December/Closed book term test held online from 10 am to 12 noon, Toronto time
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Concepts Paper Assignment

First paper, due 18 October
Answer the following question in an essay of no more than 1000 words (4 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 four concepts presented in the Glossary of the Staggenborg and Ramos (pp. 217-20) textbook are most relevant to the novel you’re reading this term in POL344? How does the author use one or more characters and plot lines in the novel to breathe life into each of the four concepts?

Responding to this question requires you to read closely and evaluate one of the five novels listed above under Required Texts. Your essay should begin with a clear thesis stating what four concepts you find most relevant to the novel you’ve read. It should then explain how each concept is presented or revealed in the novel, making reference to specific passages to show how the author puts flesh on each of the four abstract ideas you identify. Be sure to use quotation marks around all direct quotations from your novel, and cite the full source including the page number/s from which each quotation is drawn. All summaries as well as paraphrases of other authors’ work should also cite the full source and the page number/s. Given that this assignment does not involve writing a research paper, it is possible to submit an excellent paper that relies only on assigned course readings and the novel you’ve read.

The purpose of the assignment is to demonstrate facility with social movement vocabulary in the social sciences; the essay does not involve assessing the literary merits of a given writer or novel.

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The grading rubric used to evaluate POL344 student papers is presented on the course Quercus site.

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Theory Paper Assignment

Second essay, due 15 November
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 movements best explain what happens to the main character or characters in your novel? What theory or theories are disconfirmed?
Develop a coherent and concise response to the above question, using evidence from the same novel you discussed in the concepts paper to support your position. Organize your response to this question around the three main categories of social movement theory that are presented in the Staggenborg and Ramos textbook, chapter 2: Collective behaviour theory, resource mobilization/political process theory, and new social movement theory.

Be sure to develop your argument using a full set of lecture notes, the Staggenborg and Ramos textbook and other course readings on social movements. These materials will enable you to gain a firm understanding of the main streams of social movement theorizing and their application to real-world as well as fictional cases. Be sure to place quotation marks around all direct quotations from your novel as well as from other sources, and cite the full source including the page number/s from which each quotation is drawn. All summaries as well as paraphrases of other authors’ work should also cite the full source and the page number. Given that this assignment does not involve writing a research paper, it is possible to submit an excellent paper that relies only on course readings and the novel you’ve read.

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