

**Political Science 4060 Special Topics**  
**Section 1**  
**MOVEMENTS, PROTEST, AND RESISTANCE**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall 2011**

**Class Schedule:**2:40-3:30PM MWF

**Instructor:** David Iles III

**Office:**308 Stubbs Hall

**Office Hours:** 12:30-2:30PM MW and by appointment

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**Course Overview:** We will examine over the course of the semester the central themes, theories, concepts, and questions of the contemporary study of social movements, protest, and resistance. In other words, we will consider from a social scientific perspective the various ways in which individuals and groups seek to change or preserve their social, economic, and political conditions beyond the conventional channels of influence like voting. Questions we will consider include why do people protest? Is protest different from crime, voting, or running for office? In what ways do people protest? Has the nature of protest changed over time? How is activism different under democracy and dictatorship? What effects do political institutions like electoral systems have on national patterns of protest? How do the media report protest? What is the relation between political elites and activism? What are the effects of protesting on individual activists, public policy, and society in general? We will consider in depth various historical movements, actions, and periods of protest from the French Revolution to the fall of Communism, the anti-nuclear energy movement to the militia movement, the Tea Party to the Nazi Party, street theater to terrorism. Most importantly, we consider in-depth the American civil rights movement and the 2007 Burmese protests.

**Course Objectives:** In general, this course is designed to offer opportunities to develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Participation in this course will endow students with new competencies and skills in understanding the world around them, especially the nature of political activity. More specifically, this course aims to impart to students the broad concerns and the basic theoretical and empirical knowledge of the field of social movements and contentious politics. At the completion of this course students should be able to critically evaluate research on social movements and engage in their own research into the many questions of protest and resistance.

**Required Text Books:**(1) McAdam, Doug. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. (2) Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*, 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Course Requirements**

**Grade Scale**

• Research Paper	25%	<b>A</b> =100-90
• Participation	15%	<b>B</b> =89-80
• Take-Home Exam	10%	<b>C</b> =79-70
• Mid-Term Exam	20%	<b>D</b> =69-60
• Final Examination	30%	<b>F</b> =59-0

**CR.1**For this course, students are required to write a 12-15 page research paper pertaining to the themes of the course. The specific technical and substantive requirements of this paper are provided on a separate assignment sheet.

**CR.2**Socrates taught us many things, one of the most important of which is the value of dialogue and discussion in the search for knowledge. The classroom especially benefits from reasonable and engaged discourse. Students should come to class prepared for an active engagement with the assigned readings. Asking questions and offering critical comments are the most important methods of participating in class. Another crucial element of participation involves quizzes. In order to determine whether you are reading the assigned readings, I reserve the right to give spontaneous quizzes in the first five minutes of class. I may also give you advanced warning and a specific supplementary reading the quiz will draw on. If you miss a quiz you will not be able to make it up. These will be designed to capture your basic understanding of the readings before the day's lecture and discussion begins. Furthermore, twice during the semester you will be required to pick a newspaper article on a social movement or protest event and write a half-page summary of the article. I will provide more details in class.

**CR.3**Your first examination is a take-home exam. You will have the weekend to complete it. *Failure to turn in the exam by **3:30pm, Monday, September 9, 2011** in class or by e-mail will result in an 'F' with absolutely no exceptions.* Through this exam I will evaluate your progress in understanding and applying the material presented in the first three weeks of class.

**CR.4**Your mid-term examination will evaluate your progress in the first seven weeks of the course. It includes some material covered by the take-home exam, but focuses primarily on the latter four weeks. This will be an in-class and closed-book examination. You are required to bring a blue book. Date: **Friday, October 7, 2011.** (See **Student Responsibility** for the make-up policy).

**CR.5**Your final examination will evaluate your progress in the course following the mid-term. Everyone is required to take this exam regardless of grade: Date/Time: **Monday, December 5, 2011; 3:00-5:00PM.**

**Student Responsibility:** All assignments must be turned in before or on the due date. Late work will receive a 20% reduction everyday it is late and it will be graded harshly. *There are no makeup exams except under extreme circumstances.* These circumstances must be documented, and I must have access to these documents. Examinations that are not taken or assignments that are not turned in will receive an 'F.'

*You are responsible for attendance at all class meetings.* Class discussion will often involve critical examinations of the assigned readings, not mere presentation of the text. Class lectures and discussion will draw from your assigned readings and outside sources. The classroom is a unique learning environment; taking advantage of this opportunity will help you through the course. If you did not attend the first day of class and/or added the class late, all class policies apply equally to you. It is your responsibility to catch up on the class periods you missed.

*Arrive on time for the tests.* Once the first student has completed a test and left the room, no late-comers will be allowed to take the test. *Late-comers will take the make-up exam immediately following the final exam.* If a student misses the make-up exam or the final exam, there are no additional make-up finals or make-up make-ups. Students will receive a zero for a missed exam(s).

Laptops are allowed, but only for purposes pertaining to this course. Although I understand the necessity of cell phones and other devices that announce themselves unexpectedly in the middle of class thereby rudely interrupting the instructor or fellow students...

**Special Needs:** Any student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services. With the appropriate documentation accommodations are provided.

**Communication:** If the readings or class discussion are too difficult or unclear for you, please ask questions. I am eager to help you in class, in my office, or by e-mail so long as you are receptive and concerned about the quality of your work. In addition, supplementary readings and videos will be posted on Moodle.

**Academic Integrity:** It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is and that it is an unacceptable practice, but here is a clarification. "All academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized data or help of any kind. A student who supplies another with such data or help is considered deserving the same sanctions as the recipient. Specifically, cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation are prohibited." Utilizing the work of others without responsible and accurate citation only serves to harm your ability to understand the material and produce your own creative work. If you have *any* questions about proper citation, please ask me or refer to a highly regarded manual, i.e., Turabian's or Chicago Manual. I am more than eager to help you honestly avert charges of academic dishonesty. For more information please refer to the LSU undergraduate bulletin.

**Course Readings:** Nearly every class day will be accompanied by an assigned reading(s). If the readings are not found in your required course texts, they will be accessible via Moodle. In addition, I will post some interesting and/or important news articles and other supplemental materials at random throughout the semester on Moodle. You are not obligated to read these materials unless a quiz draws on them, but I guarantee you they will not take more than 3-5 minutes of your time. Finally, the reading schedule provided below is subject to change at anytime throughout the semester. You will be given *more than sufficient* time to prepare in such an event.

## TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

### PART I:

<b>1 • INTRODUCTION</b>		
8/22	Introduction/Syllabus	No Readings
8/24	The Classical Model	McAdam: 5-19 Buechler, <i>Social Movements in Advanced Capitalism</i> : 20-32
8/26	The Collective Action Problem	Olson, <i>The Logic of Collective Action</i> : 5-16 Fireman, 'Utilitarian Logic in the Resource Mobilization Perspective:' 1-21
<b>2 • CONCEPTS &amp; HISTORY</b>		
8/29	Conceptualization	Tilly, <i>Contentious Performances</i> : 5-7 Armstrong/Bernstein, 'Culture, Power, & Institutions:' 75-87 Tarrow: 1-7
8/31	State, Society, and Market I	Tilly, <i>Popular Contention in Britain</i> : 106-124 Tarrow: 54-66
9/2	State, Society, and Market II	Buechler, <i>Social Movements in Advanced Capitalism</i> : 45-51 Della Porta/Diani, <i>Social Movements</i> : 47-62
<b>3 • POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
9/5	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
9/7	Political Opportunities I	Tarrow: 71-90 Koopmans, "Political. Opportunity. Structure:" 95-101
9/9	Political Opportunities II	Goodwin/Jasper, "Caught in a Winding, Snarling Vine:" 30-41 Gamson/Meyer, "Framing Political Opportunity"
<b>4 • RESOURCE MOBILIZATION</b>		
9/12	Resources	McCarthy/Zald: "The Trend of Social Movements in America:" 1-3, 7-18
<b>TAKE HOME EXAM DUE</b>		
9/14	Networks	McAdam/Paulsen, "Specifying the Relationship between Social Ties and Activism"
9/16	Organizations	Staggenborg, "Stability & Innovation in the Women's Movement"
<b>5 • CULTURE</b>		
9/19	Critical Ideas	Rochon, <i>Culture Moves</i> : 22-53
9/21	Framing	Benford/Snow, "Framing Processes and Social Movements"
9/23	Collective Identity	Jasper/Polletta, "Collective Identity and Social Movements"
<b>6 • CULTURE II</b>		
9/26	Solidarity I	Rochon, <i>Culture Moves</i> : 95-129
9/28	Solidarity II	Hirsch, "Sacrifice for the Group"
9/30	Biography	Jasper, <i>The Art of Moral Protest</i> : 210-228
<b>7 • MEDIA &amp; PROTEST</b>		
10/3	Publicity	Lipsky, "Protest as a Political Resource"
10/5	Media	McCarthy et al, "Accessing Public, Media, Electoral, and Governmental Agendas."
10/7	<b>MID-TERM</b>	<b>MID-TERM</b>

## PART II:

### 8 • STRATEGIES & TACTICS I

10/10	Repertoires of Contention	Tarrow: 29-42
10/12	Nonviolence	Schock, <i>Unarmed Insurrections</i> : 1-23
10/14	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>

### 9 • STRATEGIES & TACTICS II

10/17	Repression I	Davenport, "State Repression and Political Order"
10/19	Repression II	Della Porta, "Social Movements and the State"
10/21	Tactical Interaction	McAdam, "Tactical Interaction and the Pace of Insurgency"

### 10 • STRATEGIES & TACTICS III

10/24	Revolution I	Kotowski, "Revolution"
10/26	Revolution II	Kuran, "The East European Revolution of 1989"
		Goodwin/Skocpol, "Explaining Revolutions in the Contemporary Third World"
10/28	Everyday Resistance	Scott, <i>Domination and the Arts of Resistance</i> : 1-16, 192-201

### 11 • TERROR, CYCLES, & LEADERS

10/31	Terrorism	Shughart, "An Analytical History of Terrorism, 1945-2000:" 1-45
11/2	Cycles of Protest	Tarrow: 141-160
11/4	Leadership & Dilemmas	Ganz, "Why David Sometimes Wins"
		Jasper, "A Strategic Approach to Collective Action"

### 12 • FRONTIERS & OUTCOMES

11/7	Activism & New Media	Van Laer/Van Aelst, "Cyber-Protest and Civil Society"
11/9	Transnational Activism	Tarrow: 176-195
11/11	Outcomes	McAdam/Su, "The War At Home"

### 13 • BURMA VJ

11/14	FILM: <i>BURMA VJ</i>	Hlaing: "Challenging the Authoritarian State"
11/16	FILM: <i>BURMA VJ</i>	No Readings
11/18	FILM Discussion	No Readings

### 14 • DEMOCRACY AND ACTIVISM

11/21	Democracy and Activism	Della Porta/Diani, <i>Social Movements</i> : 233-248
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11/23 **THANKSGIVING** **THANKSGIVING**

11/25 **THANKSGIVING** **THANKSGIVING**

### 15 • THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

11/28	Civil Rights Movement I	McAdam: 60-116
11/30	Civil Rights Movement II	McAdam: 117-180
12/2	Civil Rights Movement III	McAdam: 181-235

### 16 • FINAL EXAMINATION

12/5	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>3:00 – 5:00 PM</b>
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