

Politics of Social Movements
PSCI 3091-001

Spring 2011
M, W, F 10-10:50 AM
Humanities 1B90

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This semester we will consider a wide range of factors that have contributed to the “rights revolution” in America, creating opportunities for new and recurring social movements to emerge. Who participates in movements and why? How do movements select their strategies and tactics? What obstacles do they face? What is their response to counter-movements?

As one of the oldest democracies, the United States is often studied as a source of both stability and change. The current U.S. Constitution has endured with relatively little change for more than 200 years, supporting the argument made by those emphasizing stability. Yet, America has also altered in ways that have led to the overthrow of many other nation-states. It was one of the earliest colonies to win a war of independence against its colonial power, Great Britain. It fought a bloody civil war to end slavery. It has incrementally extended voting privileges to disenfranchised groups, including propertyless males, freed slaves, women, and men and women between 18 and 20, leading those who stress the ability of the United States to adjust to economic, social, and political shifts to find a tale of change even more compelling than that of stability.

In this class, we examine the politics of protest and social movements in the U.S., emphasizing the efforts of groups to win rights. Protests, whether peaceful or violent, are as old as the nation’s founding, whether it is the troops of the revolutionary war threatening to march on Congress to demand pay for their military service or the delegates to the Continental Congress replacing the Articles of Confederation (the first American constitution) with our current Constitution.

Course Requirements

Since the course combines lecture with discussion, it is important that students complete readings prior to the time they will be discussed. Evaluation will be based on: class participation, two essay- style papers, a mid-semester exam and a final exam.

The distribution of points on which the course grade will be based is as follows:

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Class Participation | 10 points |
| First Essay | 15 points |
| Mid-semester Examination | 25 points |
| Second Essay | 15 points |
| Final Examination | 35 points |

Important Information

Honor Code

Every student at the University of Colorado at Boulder is responsible for following the campus’s honor code (Code), which can be read at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>. The Code seeks to uphold academic integrity by forbidding cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, bribery, threatening behavior, and general dishonesty. Any suspected violation of this policy will be reported to the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu. If you have questions about appropriate rules for citation and use of other researcher’s work, or other academic issues covered by the Code, you are encouraged to discuss them with the instructor.

Requesting Accommodations

The campus office of Disability Services (www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices) is available to assist students who need extra time to complete examinations or require other accommodations for disabling conditions. If you need such consideration, please request that Disability Services notify the instructor in writing in a timely manner about your needs.

Campus policy instructs faculty to make every effort to adjust course schedules and deadlines to accommodate religious obligations. If scheduled examinations, assignments, or required attendance for this class conflict with religious observances, please inform me during the first two weeks of the class and I will work hard to provide you with a suitable alternative.

Nondiscrimination

Open dialogue and learning can only take place in an environment free from intimidation and harassment. If you witness or experience discriminatory or harassing behavior at the University of Colorado, Boulder, please contact either the Office of Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about what constitutes discrimination and/or harassment is provided at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Books to Purchase and Other Readings

The following books are required reading for this course. They can be purchased through the CU bookstore or the Colorado Bookstore on the Hill:

Jane Mansbridge and Aldon Morris, ed. *Oppositional Consciousness: The Subjective Roots of Social Protest*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Ronnee Schreiber, *Righting Feminism: Conservative Women and American Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

John D. Skrentny, *The Minority Rights Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2002.

Other assigned readings as noted below are available through Norlin Library electronic reserves.

Course Outline

Jan. 10 Introduction to course themes and expectations

I. THE COLD WAR AND BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS

A. U.S. ON THE WORLD STAGE

Jan. 12 America changes. Read Skrentny, chapter 1 entire.

Jan. 14 Promoting human rights. Read Skrentny, chapter 2, pp. 21-37.

Jan. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Social Movement) Holiday. No class meeting.

Jan. 19 Immigration as U.S. foreign policy. Read Skrentny, chapter 2, pp. 37-65.

Jan. 21 Framing civil rights as national security. Read Skrentny, chapter 3 entire.

Jan. 24 Class viewing and discussion of film on Gandhi.

B. MOBILIZING BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

Jan. 26 Oppositional consciousness. Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 1 entire.

- Jan. 28 Class viewing and discussion of film on the American civil rights movement.
- Jan. 31 Read Doug McAdam, "The Heyday of Black Insurgency" on Norlin E-reserve.
- Feb. 2 Black Churches. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 3 entire.
- Feb. 4 Disunity. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 7 entire.
- Feb. 7 ***Turn in first brief essay on assigned topics. (Maximum length 750 words.)***

C. EXPANDING THE MINORITY RIGHTS REVOLUTION

- Feb. 9 Affirmative Action. Read Skrentny, chapter 4, pp.85-101.
- Feb. 11 EEO-1 Form. Read Skrentny, chapter 4, pp. 101- 19.
- Feb. 14 Latinos, Asians and American Indians. Finish Skrentny, chapter 4, pp. 119- 42.
- Feb. 16 Minority capitalists. Read Skrentny, chapter 5 entire.
- Feb. 18 The Supreme Court. Read Skrentny, chapter 6 entire.

II. LATINO/A AND WOMEN'S SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

A. LATINO/A ACTIVISM

- Feb. 21 Developing consciousness. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 6 entire.
- Feb. 23 Bilingual education. Read Skrentny, chapter 7, pp. 179-95.
- Feb. 25 Implementing bilingual education. Read Skrentny, chapter 7, pp. 195-229.
- Feb. 28 Catch-up and review.
- Mar. 2 ***Midsemester Examination [Please bring blue books.]***

B. WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

- Mar. 4 Class viewing and discussion of film on American Woman Suffrage Movement.
- Mar. 7 Read Anne Costain, "A New Women's Movement Emerges" on Norlin E-reserve.
- Mar. 9 Title IX. Read Skrentny, chapter 8, pp, 230-49.
- Mar. 11 The significance of sports. Read Skrentny, chapter 8, pp. 249-62.
- Mar. 14 A spectrum in oppositional consciousness. Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 5 entire.

III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER U.S. RIGHTS-BASED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- Mar. 16 The disabled. Read Skrentny, chapter 9, pp. 263-75.
- Mar. 18 White ethnics. Read Skrentny, chapter 9, pp. 275-304

MARCH 21-5 SPRING BREAK

- Mar. 28 Resistance to gay rights. Finish reading Skrentny, chapter 9, pp. 304-27.

- Mar. 30 Types of movements. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 2 entire.
- Apr. 1 Disability rights. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 4 entire.
- Apr. 4 AIDS activism. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 8 entire.
- Apr. 6 American epiphany. Read Skrentny, chapter 10 entire.

IV. A COUNTER-MOVEMENT CASE: CONSERVATIVE WOMEN

- Apr. 8 Challenging change. Read Schreiber, chapter 1 entire.
- Apr. 11 History of female opposition to feminism. Read Schreiber, chapter 2 entire.
- Apr. 13 Organized "Femball." Read Schreiber, chapter 3 entire.
- Apr. 15 Victims? Read Schreiber, chapter 4 entire.
- Apr. 18 Mothers and family. Read Schreiber, chapter 5 entire.
- Apr. 20 Women's health. Read Schreiber, chapter 6 entire.
- Apr. 22 Roles of conservative women. Read Schreiber, Chapter 7 entire.
- Apr. 25 *Turn in second brief essay on assigned topics. (Maximum length 750 words.)*

V. A SOCIAL MOVEMENT SOCIETY

- Apr. 27 Complicated consciousness. Read Mansbridge and Morris, chapter 9 entire.
- Apr. 29 The Future.

**The final examination will be held in HUM 1B90 on Saturday, April 30 between 7:30 and 10 P.M.
Bring at least one blue book.**