

Dr. Kesho Scott
Spring 2006
Grinnell College
SOC 240 Social Movements in the 20th Century
M/W/F 11:00-11:50 in ARH 318

Office Hours M/W/F 3:15-4:30
or by appointment on Tues. 3:13-4:30
106 Carnegie
Office #: 269-4291
scottk1@grinnell.edu

Purpose of the Course: This survey of contemporary social movements focuses on the processes of social and cultural change, collective group behavior, and the process and critiques of reform revolution and social movement change. We will be examining definitions and theories of reform, revolution, and social movements and make comparative analyses of the goals, ideologies, and development of them primarily inside and beyond the boundaries of the United States. *Our central paradigms will be within the contexts of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and nationality.*

Definition of Social Movement: “Social movements are of importance because they actively and deliberately intervene in history. Their members are not content to be passive playthings of social forces; instead, they attempt to influence the course of human events by collective action. Many social movements, of course, can fail in their objectives, but others have brought about social changes—some minor, some far-reaching. Unlike most other forms of collective behavior, social movements may last for many years or even decades. Unlike other forms, too, social movements are fairly well structured. Their members are not scattered, unorganized individuals but rather people consciously acting together in accordance with a shared belief system, or ideology. The ideology provides a criticism of existing social conditions, a concept of the movement’s purpose, a distinction between “us” and “them” and a program for action.”

Ian Robinson, 1977

Required Texts:

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 1 | GBCA | <u>Collective Behavior and Collective Action</u> – David Miller |
| 2 | SMAC | <u>Social Movements in Advanced Capitalism</u> – Steven M. Buechler |
| 3 | RSM | <u>Rethinking Social Movements</u> - Ed Jeff Goodwin and James Jaspens |

RR **Reserved Readings:** Handouts from the Instructor, Library and Internet Research

- 1 Russian and Chinese Revolutions
- 2 Vietnamese and Guinea Bissau National Liberation Struggles
- 3 Cuba and Nicaragua People’s Struggles
- 4 Transnational Movements: Indigenous and Women’s Movements
- 5 Food: The New Social Movement in the 21st Century

* ALL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE AN OUTLINE FOR THE CLASS

Requirements: [Must keep up with readings]

- 1 Attendance, active participation/discussion, homework and class presentations 15%
- 2 Mid Exam [objective and essay] 35% (**Covers weeks 1-7 only**)

3. Final Research Paper [10-15 pages, **Instructor-Approved Topic**] 35%
(Themes related to weeks 8-12)
4. In-class Scheduled Final Exam (**Covers weeks 13-15 only**)

Class Mechanics:

- All papers will be **returned within two weeks** after due date.
- Do not turn in any assignments through email.
- Use a “buddy system” to keep up with the class assignments when absent.
- **Expect** emails from instructor regarding assignments and course schedule changes.
- Instructor reserves the right to add or delete any part of this syllabus.

Week 1: Origin of Human, Societal Change and Origins of Social Movements

Aug. 25 Introduction of Course: Objectives and Requirement. Lecture: Subjective, Objective, Historical Change, Definition of social movement?
[Concepts and Definitions]

Film: A Time for Justice 38 minutes Teaching Tolerance: A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center

(CBCA) Introduction and Chapters 1 and 15

Week 2: Collective Behavior and Collective Action in Everyday Life: Rumors and Hysteria

Aug 28 Review readings from first week

Aug 30 (CBCA) Chapters 2 and 3

Sept 1 (CBCA) Chapters 3 and 4

Week 3: Popular Collective Behavior and Action: Fads, Fashion, Sports, Migration and Disaster

Sept 4 (CBCA) Chapters 7 and 8

Sept 6 (CBCA) Chapters 9

Sept 8 (CBCA) Chapters 10 and 11

Week 4: Threats to the Social Order

Sept 11 (CBCA) Chapters 12 and 13

Sept 13 (CBCA) Chapters 14

Sept 15 Review of Miller’s concepts and applications

Week 5: Socio-historical Structures of Social Movements

Sept 18 (SMAC) Chapter 1 and 2

Sept 20 (SMAC) Chapter 3

Sept 22 (SMAC) Chapter 4

Week 6: More Socio-historical Structures of Social Movements

Sept 25 (SMAC) Chapter 5

Sept 27 (SMAC) Chapters 6

Sept 29 (SMAC) Chapters 7

Week 7: Political and Cultural Aspects of Social Movements

Oct 2 (SMAC) Chapters 8 and Epilogue

Oct 4 Review Buechler's concepts and applications

Oct 6 (RSM) Introduction and Chapter 1: Goodwin's and Jasper's thesis on Rethinking Social Movements

Week 8: Why New Reflections on "Old" Social Movements?

Oct 9 (RSM) Chapters 2 and 3

Oct 11 (Review for the mid-exam)

Oct 13 **MID EXAM (In class, objective and essay Exam 50 minutes)**

[FALL BREAK Oct 13 – 22nd]

Week 9: Political Process Theory (PPT) and Social Movements

Oct 23 (RSM) Chapters 4 and 5

Oct 25 (RSM) Chapters 6 and 7

Oct 27 (RSM) Chapters 8 and 9

Week 10: PPT Continues:

Oct 30 (RSM) Chapters 10 and Applications

Nov 1 (RSM) Chapter 11 and Applications

Nov 3 (RSM) Chapter 12 and Applications

Week 11: When Social Movements Paradigms Fail: Best Practices

Nov 6 (RSM) Chapter 13 and Applications

Nov 8 (RSM) Chapter 14 and Applications

Nov 10 (RSM) Chapter 15 and Applications

Week 12: Reviewing Revolutions in the 20th Century: Strategies for Change

Nov 13 Russia and China (RR)

Nov 15 Vietnam and Guinea Bissau (RR)

Nov 17 Cuba and Nicaragua (RR)

Week 13: Transnational Social Movements: The Future and Complications

Nov 20 Indigenous Movements (RR)

Nov 22 Women's Movements (RR)

Week 14: Food: A New Issue for Social Movements in the 21st Century

Nov 27 Origins of Food Social Movements

Nov 29 Food Movement Organizations

Dec 1 Food Movements Leaders and Mobilizations

Week 15: Food Movement Activism (Local and Global)

Dec 4 Food Movement Activism: SURPRISE!!!!!!!!!!

Dec 6 Future of the Starving and Social Movement Opportunities (The Global North and South)

Dec 8 Bottom-up and Top down Change: **Bring it all together:** Future Projections for Reform, Revolution, and Social Change in the 21st Century

Week 15—Exam week

Final Research Paper Due: Day of the scheduled exam: _____