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PSCI 246. Social Movements and Political Power

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PSCI 246. Social Movements and Political Power

Queens College

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Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of social movements, in terms of defining social movements vis-à-vis other political phenomena. Students will engage with the main theoretical approaches in the field to address questions of causality central to the study of social movements, such as: Why do movements emerge? How are movements maintained and grown? What conditions contribute to the success, failure, or transformation of movements? What is the impact of a movement on the local, national and/or global level? How is political power shaped by movement activity? What constitutes favorable movement outcomes? Students will evaluate the respective strengths and weaknesses of the main theoretical approaches in understanding and explaining historical, contemporary, and emergent movements.

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify, describe, and engage with the main theoretical approaches in the field.
2. Students will understand the questions of causality central to the study of social movements, and be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the main theoretical approaches in answering the above.
3. Students will research one social movement and evaluate their respective case studies based upon the main theoretical approaches.
4. To promote the ability of students to clearly and coherently present their ideas in verbal and written communication. Students will develop general analytic skills.

Zero Textbook Cost Course

The professor will provide all of the materials and readings for the students at no cost. All of the readings can be accessed at no cost through the Queens College Libraries. In addition, relevant audiovisual material will be watched for selected class sessions.

Course Requirements

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Class participation	15%
Class Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Paper Proposal	5%
Final Paper	15%
Final Paper Presentation	5%
Final Exam	15%

Class participation

Students are expected to attend each in-person and online synchronous class session, and to be active participants in class discussions by asking questions and providing informed comments. This requires students to complete all the readings before each class. Students are responsible for all assigned readings.

Class Assignments

Students are expected to complete class assignments, inclusive of reading reflections, analyses of texts and/or audiovisual materials, or responses to questions. The purpose of class assignments is to prepare students for the upcoming class discussion and activities. The professor will post class assignments and details of the requirements for the assignment to Blackboard a week before it is due.

Final Paper

Students will submit a final paper. Details of the final paper will be distributed in the semester.

Final Paper Proposal

Students will submit a final paper proposal. Details of the final paper proposal will be distributed in the semester.

Final Paper Presentation

Students will present their final paper. Details of the presentation will be distributed in the semester.

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm and final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions based upon the readings and the in-class discussions.

Course Schedule

Session 1: An Introduction to Social Movements

- Snow, David A., Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly J. McCammon. "Introduction: Mapping and Opening Up the Terrain." *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2nd ed., edited by Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly J. McCammon, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2019, pp. 1-16.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_ebookcentralchapters_5520245_6_25

Session 2: Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (Collective Behavior Theory) & (Resource Mobilization Theory)

- McCarthy, J.D., & Zald, M.N. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 82, no. 1, 1977, pp. 1212-1241.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_60843514

Session 3: Case Study: Hong Kong Protests & Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (Political Process Theory)

- ****Class Assignment #1 Due****
- McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. "Comparative Perspectives on Contentious Politics." *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Structure, and Culture*, edited by Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, Cambridge University Press, 2008, pp. 260-290.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_ebookcentralchapters_412751_134_278

- Kitschelt, Herbert P. "Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies." *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 16, no. 1, 1986, pp 57-85.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_60983549

Session 4: Case Study: Hong Kong Protests & Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (Cultural Approach: *Framing*)

- ****Class Assignment #2 Due****
- David A. Snow, E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. "Frame Alignment Process, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 51, 1986, pp. 461-81.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_60958546

Session 5: Case Study: Pro-Life and Pro-Choice Movements in the United States & Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (Cultural Approach: Emotions)

- ****Class Assignment #3 Due****
- Jasper, J.M. "Emotions and Social Movements: Twenty Years of Theory and Research." *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 37, 2011, pp. 285-303.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_919902991

Session 6: Case Study: Pro-Life Movement Organization, *Live Action* & Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (Synthetic Approach)

- ****Class Assignment #4 Due****
- PBS, 6/24/22

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/an-anti-abortion-advocate-on-what-comes-after-roe>

- CNBC, 6/24/22

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-by-supreme-court-ending-federal-abortion-rights.html>

- Bloomberg, 6/24/22

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-24/supreme-court-overturns-roe-v-wade-abortion-rights-ruling>

- PBS, 6/27/22

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-americans-are-responding-to-the-supreme-court-ruling-overturning-roe-v-wade>

- CNN, 6/28/22

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/28/politics/cnn-poll-abortion-roe-v-wade>

- PBS, 7/1/22

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/state-abortion-bans-face-legal-challenges-after-supreme-court-ruling-on-roe-v-wade>

- PBS, 9/15/22

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/conservative-states-continue-to-restrict-abortion-following-overturn-of-roe-v-wade>

- March for Life 2023

<https://marchforlife.org>

- Live Action 2022 Gala

<https://www.liveaction.org/lila-gala-speech-2022/>

Session 7: Case Study: Occupy Wall Street & Issues in the Study of Social Movements and Collective Action (Movements and Media) & (Movement Outcomes)

- ****Class Assignment #5 Due****
- Tremayne, Mark. "Anatomy of Protest in the Digital Era: A Network Analysis of Twitter and Occupy Wall Street," *Social Movement Studies*, vol. 13, 2014, pp. 110-126.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_1477168304

Session 8: Midterm Exam

Session 9: Case Study: Occupy Wall Street & Issues in the Study of Social Movements and Collective Action (Movement Strategy)

- ****Class Assignment #6 Due****
- Staggengborg, Suzanne and David S. Meyer. "Thinking About Strategy," *Strategies for Social Change*, edited by Rachel V. Kutz-Flamenbaum and Gregory M. Maney, University of Minnesota Press, 2012, pp. 3-22.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_jstor_books_j_cttspgg_5

Session 10: Case Study: Black Lives Matter & Issues in the Study of Social Movement and Collective Action (Public Discourse)

- ****Class Assignment #7 Due****

- Woodly, Deva. “The Importance of Public Meaning for Political Persuasion.” *Perspectives on Politics*, vol.16, 2018, pp. 22-35.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_proquest_journals_1995247341

Session 11: Case Study: Marriage Equality Movement & Issues in the Study of Social Movement and Collective Action (Leadership)

- ****Class Assignment #8 Due****
- Ganz, Marshall and Elizabeth McKenna. “Bringing Leadership Back In.” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2nd ed., edited by Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly J. McCammon, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2019, pp. 185-202.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_wiley_ebooks_10_1002_9781119168577_ch10_ch10

Session 12: Case Study: Climate Change Movement & Issues in the Study of Social Movement and Collective Action (Political Parties)

- ****Class Assignment #9 Due****
- Hutter, Swen, Hanspeter Kriesi and Jasmine Lorenzini. “Social Movements in Interaction with Political Parties.” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2nd ed., edited by Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly J. McCammon, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2019, pp. 322-337.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_wiley_ebooks_10_1002_9781119168577_ch18_ch18

Session 13: Case Study: The Tea Party Movement & Issues in the Study of Social Movement and Collective Action (Transnational Movements)

- ****Class Assignment #10 Due****
- Hutter, Swen, Hanspeter Kriesi and Jasmine Lorenzini. “Social Movements in Interaction with Political Parties.” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2nd ed., edited by Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly J. McCammon, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2019, pp. 322-337.

https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_QC/1osl74v/cdi_wiley_ebooks_10_1002_9781119168577_ch18_ch18

Session 14: Presentations

Session 15: Final Exam