PLCP 3500: THE POLITICS OF PROTEST  
UVA Department of Politics  
Summer Session II 2016

Instructor: Paromita Sen  
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Class: M-F 1-315 pm  
Office: Gibson S195  
Location: New Cab 383  
Office Hours: By Email

Course Description: This seminar will investigate the politics of social movements & protest events. These are topics that are often nested under the study of “contentious politics”, a term phrased by Charles Tilly and include (but are not limited to) riots, strikes, protests, social movements, terrorist movements and revolutions. These are all instances of agents who act collectively, stand at least partially outside formal state institutions and seek to challenge (or uphold) ongoing social and political arrangements. We will draw on social movements from a variety of countries and issue areas to better understand the life cycle of protests. We will specifically be looking at how movements start, how they mobilize participants, their organizational structures and what their outcomes are.

The class is primarily organised around the structure of a social movement in itself, reflecting the protest cycle. The goal of this class is to integrate academic theory with real world empirics, and will therefore revolve largely around us applying academic concepts and theories to social movements that are of particular interest to us. This will allow us to learn more about both the theory behind social movements as well as about how people are actually mobilizing and fighting in the world all around us, political science and politics simultaneously. We will therefore be learning as much from each other as we will the texts and instruction.

Readings: There is only one text required for this class. All other readings will available as PDFs on the Class Collab site. The textbook is available at the UVA Bookstore. There is no specific edition required. Chapters from the book are bolded in the syllabus.


Grade Distribution:  
Participation 15%  
Paper I 25%  
In Class Writing Assignments 15%  
Paper Feedback 10%  
Final Paper 35%
Course Policies:

• General

  – Cell phones are not permitted in class.
  – Laptops are permitted, but please do not surf the Internet, text or chat when class is in session.
  – If you violate the technology policy, or are disruptive in discussion, I will have to ask you to leave.

• Grades

  – Grades in the C range represent performance that meets expectations; Grades in the B range represent performance that is substantially better than the expectations; Grades in the A range represent work that is excellent.

• Attendance and Absences

  – Attendance is expected and will be taken each class. Given the condensed nature of this semester, there will be no unexcused absences. Any absences therefore will result in point and/or grade deductions.
  – Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee’s responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

• Participation

  – Participation will include but not be limited to class discussions, and reading quizzes.
  – Graded in-class writing assignments based on the discussion of campus student issues at the end of Week 3.

Assignments: The primary assignments for this class will be 2 papers - 3 pages and 7-8 pages. Additional details will be provided in a separate handout and will cover the two papers, and the paper critique you will provide a classmate on their paper. No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.

Students are expected to abide by the University’s Honor Code. If you have any question about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.
**Course Readings:**

You are expected to do the readings by the date assigned as we will be discussing them in class on the day they are assigned for. The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the reading assignments. Changes will announced a minimum of 2 days ahead of the affected reading assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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- **Snow & Soule.** “Conceptualizing Social Movements.”  
- **Snow & Soule.** “Mobilizing Grievances.”  
- **Social Movement Focus Due** |
| June 20: Participation | • Snow & Soule. “Participation in Social Movements.”  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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| June 24:  | Grassroots Mobilization       | * Movie: Pray The Devil Back To Hell  
* Film Review by Alison Prasch  
* Paper #1 Due on Collab and in Class |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Readings/Articles</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 29:</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>• Title: Turkish Intellectuals, Peace Activism and the Turkish State. By Halil</td>
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<td>• Al Jazeera Article</td>
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<td>• Times Higher Education Article</td>
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<td>June 30:</td>
<td>Student Athletes &amp; the NCAA</td>
<td>• Movie: Schooled - The Price of College Sports</td>
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<td>• Readings: TBD</td>
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<td>• In-class Writing Assignment</td>
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<td>July 1:</td>
<td>Campus Sexual Assault</td>
<td>• Movie: The Hunting Ground</td>
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<td>• In-class Writing Assignment</td>
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<td>July 5:</td>
<td>Consequences</td>
<td>• Snow &amp; Soule. “Consequences of Social Movements.”</td>
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<td>• Giugni, Marco G. “Was it worth the effort? The outcomes and consequences of</td>
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<td>• Stewart, Julie. “A measure of justice: The Rabinal human rights movement in</td>
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<td>post-war Guatemala.” Qualitative Sociology. 31.3. 2008. 231-250.</td>
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<td>July 6:</td>
<td>Escalation &amp; Dissent</td>
<td>• Hosoki, Ralph I. “Demography and Social Movements and Revolution.” The</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Leenders, Reinoud, and Steven Heydemann. “Popular mobilization in Syria:</td>
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<td>opportunity and threat, and the social networks of the early risers.” Mediterranean</td>
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<td>Politics. 17.2 July 2012. 139-159.</td>
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<td>July 7:</td>
<td>Wrap Up</td>
<td>• News Articles on Syria and Bangladesh</td>
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<td>July 8:</td>
<td>Final Papers Due</td>
<td>• Paper Due in Mailbox AND Collab by 5 pm</td>
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Assignment Sheet

There are two written assignments in this class, which together make up 60% of your total grade. Both these papers will trace different aspects of the social movement you select as your primary focus in Week 1. Additionally, you will be required to provide feedback on 2 fellow students’ papers at the end of the semester. Please find the details of each paper below. Additional clarification will be provided in class.

Paper 1

Due Date: June 24th
Length: 3 pages
Grade Component: 25%

Paper 1 will look at the origins of the social movement that you have selected. You will be expected to arbitrate between the various theories we have studied on causes of mobilization in Week 1 and determine which you think best explains the origins of your movements. To successfully defend one such theory, it is necessary to discuss all the dominant theories briefly and then disprove the ones you argue don’t apply. Consider this the theoretical paper in the course, where you

- Evaluate the theories for their own internal consistencies
- Apply them to evidentiary data to evaluate their applicability

Theories are sets of ideas intended to explain facts or events, which are suggested as potentially true but are not proven to be so. It is up to us as researchers to see which of many potential explanations holds true for the objective facts in front of us. To do this, we must see if the potential explanation is coherent in and of itself, logically consistent on its own. Once we can argue that a theory is internally consistent, we can then test to see if the theory holds for the empirical world as we know it. We map out what would be the empirical implications of the theory, what should the empirical world look like if the theory were to be true. Then we see if the empirical facts as we know them match onto the empirical implications of each potential theory. This is in effect what you will be doing with the theories explaining origins of social movements - evaluating each theory on its own and then testing them on the social movement you are focusing on.
Paper 2

Due Date: July 8th
Length: 7-8 pages
Grade Component: 35%

Paper 2 reflects on the larger cycle of the social movement. You may either choose to explain:

- Participation and Organization
- Organization and Consequences

In this paper, you will focus on explaining the choices made by movement leaders and what the implications of those are on the overall structure of the movement itself. The primary goal here is to see how the directions/choices/decisions in one stage of a movement affect the nature of the movement moving forth. How does recruitment to the movement determine the organizational structure and the tactics chosen? How does the organisational structure and repertoire of actions determine the results and consequences of the movement? How much leeway do movements have in determining their outcomes? How much of it comes down to individual decisions (agency) and how much of it is structurally determined?

This paper is less theoretical than the first and instead asks you to apply the logics learned in the class to better understand data in the real world as you experience it every day. This is more akin to what you will be doing after this class, when you read the news and talk to people. How do you carry the lessons learned here beyond college classes, into your understanding of politics on an everyday basis?

Peer Feedback

Date: July 7th
Grade Component: 10%

This is an exercise in writing and editing - general skills you should be acquiring through the course of your college career. You will have to have a functioning draft in time for your peer review feedback session which requires practicing time management skills and also provides you with enough time to edit and make final changes to your paper before the deadline. Additionally, helping fellow students with their papers is a learning process, both in terms of content vis-a-vis their topic but also, their writing style. You will provide feedback to 2 other students, with each feedback constituting 5% of your total grade.
PLCP 3500 Paper 1 - FAQ

I. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to see how the various theories of mobilization reflect on the emergence of the social movement you have picked. You have to, at the least, consider

1. The Grievance School of Theories
2. Resource Mobilization
3. Political Opportunity/Political Process Model

You may, if you wish, also consider

4. Framing
5. Eventful Temporality/Moral Shock

But these are not necessary. You only have to draw on these if you believe they have specific relevance to your case.

II. Introduction

Keep your introductions short (about 4-5 sentences) – A brief description of your social movement and which theory, or combination thereof, you argue works best to explain the emergence/mobilization of the social movement.

III. Theory

Essentially what you should be doing is distilling down the theories to their most basic analytic components, bare bones if you may.

If it’s a theory you don’t think has much relevance for your case, then summarize the theory in 3-4 sentences and spend an equivalent amount of space explaining why you would argue the theory doesn’t work for your case.

If the theory works for your case, then this is where you go into a little more detail. What aspects of the theory (what resources, organizations, political structures, disruptions, etc.) are you drawing on, how do they impact mobilization and how they match onto the empirical details of your case. This is the bulk of the paper. You can definitely use a combination of theories or stick to just one, whatever works for you.

IV. Sources

You can use non-academic sources for this paper (avoid Wikipedia where possible) but keep in mind that a strong element of bias may exist with many of these non-academic sources. Drawing from movement websites for instance will require some skepticism from you about their claims and reported achievements. Media reports require a similar skepticism etc so adjust accordingly for liberal-conservative or left-right bias. Videos, blogs, social media pages, etc are OK to analyze for this assignment as well. For the theory section, you don’t have to do extra research if you don’t want to – class readings and notes are fine. You are of course welcome to do any extra research you want, if you think it will help.
V. Formatting Details

Length of Paper – 3 pages double spaced

Bibliography Style – Don’t care as long as it’s consistent

Subheadings – always useful to have

Font – Times New Roman, Size 12

1 inch margins
Campus Student Movements

I. Written Product:
   a. These are flexible but try and maintain the lower limit
   b. What is the grievance? What is the history of the grievance and how has it been articulated hence far? Who has done the articulation? (1-2 page)
   c. Who are the actors? What is their motivation? Who are potential actors, allies, bystanders, adherents? (3-4 pages)
   d. What institutions are they going up against? What are the institutions vested interests and how do they operate counter to the interests of the movement? (2-3 pages)
   e. What frames are being used – diagnostic, prognostic, motivational? Which frames are most effective? What changes would you recommend? (2-3 pages)
   f. What forms of participation mobilize which groups of people? Who do they lose? How should they proceed? (4-5 pages)

II. Division of Labour:
   a. You can decide how you want to share the writing burden. Some of these will be easier to research but require more writing. It will also be dependent on the movement you will be working on. I’d recommend
      i. Grievances – 2
      ii. Actors – 4
      iii. Institutions – 2
      iv. Frames – 3
      v. Participation – 4

III. Campus Sexual Assault:
   a. Campus Sexual Assault now involves institutional actors beyond just the campus environment. In this assignment however, focus on the primarily student aspect of the movement for the initial stages but you can include their interaction with the state as part of your analysis on the successes and failures of the movement’s strategies and tactics.

IV. Student Athletes and the NCAA
   a. One of the more successful attempts by student athletes to assert their rights was the attempt by Northwestern U athletes to unionize, as well as a corresponding court case filed against the NCAA and EA Sports. Keep these in mind when determining what forms of participation and protest might be most effective for this movement.
Final Essay

Choose any one of the following questions for your final essay. The paper should be 7-8 pages long and must draw on class readings where possible. You are also welcome to do extra research if you want. You can use non-academic sources for this paper (avoid Wikipedia where possible) but keep in mind that a strong element of bias may exist with many of these non-academic sources. Drawing from movement websites for instance will require some skepticism from you about their claims and reported achievements. Media reports require a similar skepticism etc so adjust accordingly for liberal-conservative or left-right bias. Videos, blogs, social media pages, etc are OK to analyze for this assignment as well.

A draft of your paper must be ready by July 7th to be circulated to your peers for their peer feedback. Final papers are due July 8th at 5 pm on Collab and in my mailbox.

Questions

1. Repertoires of Contention:
   a. What are the repertoires of contention available for the movement? How does this influence and shape recruitment into the movement as well as their operational dynamics? What factors constrain their options (what options aren’t available to them and why) and what impact does this have on movement success overall?

2. State Structure
   a. How are the movement’s goals, strategies, and tactics impacted by state structure and state policies? What are the consequences of these movement goals, strategies and tactics on movement participation and success? Consider regime structure, policing and repression policies, and international attention amongst others.

3. Frames and their Resonance
   a. What frames are deployed at different stages of the movement? Why do the frames resonate with mobilized populations? What impact do these frames have on who is mobilized and what forms of contention are available to the movement? Include both the successful and failed frames in your analysis.

Formatting Details

Length of Paper – 7-8 pages double spaced

Bibliography Style – Don’t care as long as it’s consistent

Subheadings – always useful to have

Font – Times New Roman, Size 12

1 inch margins