

SOCIOLOGY OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

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Attendance is compulsory and students' participation in class will be encouraged and rewarded.

All the teacher's presentations (on power point) plus the readings (pdf), both compulsory (for the whole class) and voluntary (for individual students), are to be found on "CAMPUS VIRTUAL". For the compulsory readings, a randomly chosen student will conduct the debate.

SYLLABUS

How to Approach the Subject "Sociology of the Social Movements"?

1. Introduction: What is a Social Movement?

Differences between Civil Society Actors: Movements, Interest Groups and Parties

1.1. Main Concepts in the Field

2. Introducing the Classical Models of Mass Behaviour.

3. Recruitment and Networks: Becoming an Activist

Reasons to Join, Stay on and Drop out. The Freedom Summer Project.

4. Modern Approaches: The Resource Mobilization Theory

4.1. The Concept of Rationality in the Social Sciences

4.2. The Collective Action Paradox

5. Modern Approaches: The Political Process Theory. Collective Action in Democratic Contexts:

5.1. Policing Protest. Collective Action in Dangerous and Non-democratic Contexts: Risks and Repression

6. Modern Approaches: Social Constructivism. Emotions and Frames

7. The Attempt at a Global Synthesis. The Dynamics of Contention (DoC) Project

8. Modern Approaches: The New Social Movements Theory

9. The Consequences/Outcomes of Social Movements. What Do They Achieve (if Anything at all)? Intended and Unintended Consequences, Backlashes. How to study the Political Outcomes.

10. A Movement in Flesh and Blood: the Civil Rights Movement in the United States

If time available

More Social Movements: Women and Feminists; Gays and Lesbians; Pacifists and Environmentalists; Violent and Awkward Movements; and more...

Future Trends: More or Less Mobilization? Europeanization, Transnationalization of the Protest?

ASSESSMENT

- A) compulsory readings leading to debates (or specific tests) amount to 20% of the final mark,
- B) voluntary readings agreed by with the teacher (3 journal articles, either provided by the teacher, or found by the student in accordance with the teacher) amount to 20% of the final mark;
- C) the remaining 60% will be decided in a final test (notice that a 50% minimum has to be obtained in the test in order to pass the subject).

Failure to comply with the deadline or guidelines exposed below, will lead to the dismissal of B.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF VOLUNTARY READINGS (GUIDELINES)

- 1) Power point or any other similar format; time is approx. 20' (not counting the subsequent debate).
 - A research question/s, introduced at the beginning, should orient the presentation.
 - Critical reading and analysis of the material.

- Combine theoretical arguments with empirical evidence (the usage of additional evidence, whenever needed and suitable, is recommended: websites, leaflets, propaganda and electoral results, political speeches, number of demonstrations, survey data, membership rates...); relatively easy to find on the Internet.
- 2) Finally, a tentative conclusion linked to the initial question/s will be introduced as well as questions leading to generate a debate in class (this debate will not focus on opinions but on the arguments, theoretical material and empirical evidence provided).