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PSC 395.01: Politics of Social Movements

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POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
University of Montana, PSc #395
Summer 1995
Meets: MTWRF 10:50-12:20

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley* (University of Illinois Press, 1980).
2. Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, *Poor People's Movements: Why they Succeed, How they Fail* (Vintage Books, 1979).
3. FAC-PAC

This is a course on 20th century social movements in the United States. What role have social movements had in shaping the politics of power, as reflected in public policy, electoral politics, relations of class, race, and gender, and people's understanding of the world and their place in it? We will repeatedly ask the question, why have particular movements and movement organizations succeeded to the degree they have, and why have they failed to accomplish more? Efforts will be made to combine an historical appreciation of the movements and a normative assessment of their goals.

No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with U.S. history, social movements, or social movement theory. It does, however, assume a willingness to work hard to understand the histories of various social movements and the complexity of competing theoretical approaches. Students are required to not only read the material, but come to class prepared to discuss it.

Your grade will be based primarily on a mid-term and a final exam. Students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. It is not sufficient to read the material quickly right before class. All assigned readings must be read carefully and analytically before the class listed below for discussion. You should come to class prepared to make voluntary contributions to class discussions and to answer questions directed at students by the instructor. Students will have an opportunity to either lower or improve their grade through class attendance and participation. Exams will refer to both the readings and class discussions.

It may well be necessary, from time to time, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact either the professor or another student to see what has been missed.

Part I: Why are Social Movements so Difficult to Form: the Powers of Prevention

Gaventa, Preface and pp. 1-44 for June 27

Gaventa, pp. 47-83 for June 28 (Give special attention to the conceptual issues raised pp. 47-53, 61-76, 80-83)

Gaventa, pp. 84-121 for June 29 (Give special attention to the conceptual issues raised on pp. 84-96, 109-116.)

Gaventa, pp. 125-201 for June 30 (Give special attention to the conceptual issues raised on 141-145, 161-169, 192-195, 199-201.)

Gaventa, pp. 205-261 for July 3

Part II: Four Case Studies and a Point of View

Piven and Cloward, pp. ix-40 for July 5

Piven and Cloward, pp. 41-95 for July 6

Piven and Cloward, pp. 96-180 for July 7

Piven and Cloward, pp. 181-263 for July 10

Piven and Cloward, pp. 264-359 for July 11

Mid-term Workshop on July 12

MID-TERM EXAM DUE JULY 13

Part IV: Movements of the Right

Goldberg, pp. 65-90 for July 14

Bruce, pp. 477-494 for July 17

Falwell, pp. 111-123 for July 17

Christianity Today, pp. 42-45 for July 17

Readings to be announced for July 18 (Christian Coalition)

Part V: Women's Movement

Popkin, pp. 181-222 for July 19

Hartsock, pp. 3-19, for July 20

Bunch, pp. 189-201 for July 20

Staggenborg, pp. 75-92 for July 21

Kaminer, pp. 51-68 for July 21

Part VI: Reflections on the 1990s

Epstein, pp. 227-278 for July 24

Harpers, about ten pages for July 25

Lapham, 31-42 for July 25

Readings to be announced for July 26

Final Exam Workshop and Course Evaluation July 27

FINAL EXAM JULY 28