Social movements are collective efforts, against the odds, through which people at the margins of power unite to press their grievances on the state.

Analyzing a variety of movements from the late 19th century to the present, this course seeks answers to the following questions: What grievances, and social and political conditions gave rise to these movements? What determined success or failure (and how should those terms be defined and measured)? How did social movements affect political processes and institutions (and vice-versa)? What is their legacy in politics, policy, and patterns of social interaction?

The movements to be studied are populism; progressive era movements (labor, farmers, women’s suffrage); protest movements of the 1930’s; civil rights; SDS and antiwar movements of the 60s; environmentalism; the feminist movement post-1960; the 1980’s anti-nuclear (weapons) movement; gay rights; and the new religious right. We will also give brief attention to three of today’s most dynamic movements: the Tea Party, the anti-fracking movement, and immigrant rights. Some theoretical works will be used, but most of our theoretical explorations will be inductively derived, from studies of actual movements, the difficulties they faced, and what they accomplished.

There will be a midterm and final exam and two short (5pp) essays on syllabus readings, from a short list of topics. With my permission, you may write your second paper on a different topic that also uses mostly the syllabus readings. The short essays together count for 30 % of the final grade; the midterm, 30%; and the final, 30%. Section participation counts for the remaining 10%. Regular attendance is expected.

Books to be used, in part (see below for pages to be read), in order of appearance, are:

Doug McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1st -2nd ed.
Walter Nugent, Progressivism: A Very Short Introduction
Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest
Todd Gitlin, The Whole World is Watching, 2nd ed.
Kirkpatrick Sale, The Green Revolution
Mary F. Katzenstein, Faithful and Fearless

The campus bookstore has the above books, and they are also on reserve at Uris.

*Asterisks denote readings on Blackboard. Books that should be purchased or read in the library do not have asterisks. All listed readings are required. Purely optional readings, just for your curiosity, but not needed for exams or papers, will also appear on BB, in red, preceded by “OPT.”
Reading Schedule  [Averages c. 120 pp/wk, but variable].

*Introduction to Social Movement Theory*

Aug. 28-Sept 6 (2 wks)  Doug McAdam, Political Process... 5-59 (concentrate on 36-59)
*Ron Aminzade, Jack Goldstone, and Elizabeth Perry, “Leadership Dynamics,” 126-top p. 132, and 152-54
*Frances Piven and Richard Cloward, Poor Peoples’ Movements, xv-xvi, 1-17
*Dennis Chong, Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement, 1-12


*The “Movement Culture” of Farmers in the Late 19th Century*

Sept 9-13  *Elizabeth Sanders, Roots of Reform, 1-6, 31-32, 101-47*  
Walter Nugent, Progressivism, 1-34

*Progressive Era Social Movements: farmers, workers, women*

Sept 16-20 Walter Nugent, Progressivism: 35-107, 120-27
*Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle, chapters 20-21
*Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1-12

*Organized Labor*

Sept 23-27  *Piven and Cloward, Poor People’s Movements, 113-33, 172-75.*
*Rick Fantasia, Cultures of Solidarity, 121-79
*Tracy Roof, American Labor, Congress, & the Welfare State, 1-20, 177-93, 210-14

*Social Protest in the 1930s*


1st short essay due Oct 7
The Civil Rights Movement

Oct 7-11  Doug McAdam, Political Protest and ...Black Insurgency, 60-205

Oct 14-18  *John Lewis, Walking with the Wind, 90-111, 130-52  
* Dennis Chong, Collective Action and the C.R. Movement, 197-206;  
McAdam, ibid., 205-229  [note: no class Oct 14, fall break]

(Midterm EXAM is on Monday, October 21, in class)

Movement and Media in the 1960s and 1970s

* “Port Huron Statement” from Takin’ it to the Streets 61-74.  
* Gary T. Marx, “External Efforts To Damage or Facilitate Social Movements,” in Zald and McCarthy, Dynamics of Social Mmts, 94-125

*(Opt) Frederick Miller, “The End of the SDS,” in Jo Freeman, ed., Soc Mmts... (Lecture) Introduction to “Post-Materialism.”  
Wednesday: Film: "Berkeley in the 60’s"  

Environmentalism

Nov 4-8  Kirkpatrick Sale, The Green Revolution, 1-108  
*The anti-fracking movement in NY (read about 20 pages from these articles)  
* Theda Skocpol, “Why has Climate Legislation Failed?” Wash. Post, 1-16-13  
*(Opt) Robert J. Brulle and J. Craig Jenkins Partisan Battles and Shifting Public Opinion on Climate Change, SSN, March, 2012 (2 pages)

Women and Equal Rights

Nov 11-15  *Anne N. Costain, Inviting Women’s Rebellion, 26-45  
* Lee Ann Banaszak, The Women’s Movement Inside and Outside the State, 92-99  
Mary F. Katzenstein, Faithful and Fearless, ix-xi, 3-103  
The Peace Movements of the 1980s

Nov 18-22  *David S. Meyer, Winter of Discontent, 157-84; 
*Francis McCrea and Gerald Markle, Minutes to Midnight, 122-43; 
*David S. Meyer, "How the Cold War was Really Won," in Marco Giugni et al., How Social Movements Matter 182-96, 200-02

The New Religious Right


2nd Essay Due Dec 2:

Gay Rights: from Identity to Rights Frame

* Tina Fetner, How the Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism, xi-xviii, 10-22, 110-29  

Note on papers: Late penalty is five points (half a letter grade) per day. A document from Gannett or other physician confirming treatment for illness should accompany a late paper to avoid the penalty. If your paper is not submitted in class, make sure receipt is confirmed by the instructor or a TA. Should questions of authorship arise, the paper will be checked through Turnitin. Read "Paper Writing Pointers" (on BB) very carefully before writing. Consulting the Walk-In Writer’s Service is strongly recommended. For their schedules, see: http://www.arts.cornell.edu/Knight_institute/walkin/walkin.htm.

If you feel unwell, physically or psychologically, you should not hesitate to use the resources at Gannett. If you have any problem that is interfering with your performance in this class, please feel free to talk to me, in confidence, or to call me at the office or at home in case of urgency.