

Fall 2015
TuTh 1230-2P
141 MCCONE

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SOC 140
POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Course description: This course focuses on the interaction between politics and society. We will look at different forms of politics including voting, social movements, party politics, state policies, direct democratic action, religious mobilization, and revolution. We will discuss whether, how, and why each of these forms of political action impact social change. We will ask whether some are more influential ways of bringing about change than others. We will explore these questions in different contexts including the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. We will study both historical examples and contemporary cases based on sociological perspectives.

Evaluation:

There will be three take-home examinations (5 double-spaced pages for the midterm, 6 for the final). You will write one research paper. Section discussions also constitute a part of the final grade.

Midterms (October 1; October 29): 30%

Final (December 18): 20%

Research paper (December 8): 30%

Section participation: 20%

Required texts: The reader is available at Copy Central (on 2576 Bancroft Way). The articles not included in the reader are available online (see below for details).

The research paper

The goal of the research paper is applying the perspectives we have learned to actual cases. You will pick one revolution, movement, or country and discuss it within the context of the theories. You can, for example, take one theory and discuss why it works better in the case you have chosen than other plausible theories (you do not have to cover all the theories we have learned). You can also seek to combine the insights of two or more theories.

You will have to build the argument you develop in this paper on additional research. This means that you have to read additional articles and books about the revolution, movement, or country of your choice and refer to these in your paper (along with the articles and books covered in class).

In early November, you will hand in a research proposal that will outline your argument and provide a provisional bibliography (1 double-spaced page, not counting the bibliography). The final paper will be double-spaced, and a maximum of 10 pages (including the bibliography).

Week 1: Overall framework

Therborn G. 2012. "Class in the 21st Century." *New Left Review* 78: 5-29.
(Available on the library website. <http://newleftreview.org/II/78/goran-therborn-class-in-the-21st-century>)

Arrighi, Giovanni, Terence K. Hopkins, and Immanuel Wallerstein. 1989. *Anti-Systemic Movements*. London: Verso. Pp. 29-51, 97-115.

I. CLASS, RACE, AND MOBILIZATION IN THE US

Week 2: Voting in the United States

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 2000. *Why Americans still don't Vote*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 23-71, 108-36.

Week 3: Class and party

Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 413-432.

de Leon, Cedric. 2008. "'No Bourgeois Mass Party, No Democracy': The Missing Link in Barrington Moore's American Civil War." *Political Power and Social Theory* 19: 39-82.

Week 4: Beyond class: New Social Movements and the media

Gitlin, Todd. 2003. *The Whole World Is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 146-246.

II. SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS

Week 5: The Russian revolutions of 1917

Carr, Edward. *The Bolshevik Revolution, Vol. 1*. Pp. 45-123, 130-135.

Week 6: Comparative analysis of revolutions

Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 3-43, 284-293.

Burawoy, Michael. 1989. "Two methods in search of science: Skocpol vs. Trotsky." *Theory and Society* 18/6: 759-805.

Week 7: Islam and revolution

Kurzman, Charles. 2004. *The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. Pp. vii-11, 125-185.

III: THE 2008-2013 REVOLT WAVE

Weeks 8-9: The major dynamics of the wave

Mason, Paul. 2013. *Why It's Still Kicking Off Everywhere: The New Global Revolutions*. London: Verso. Pp. 65-85, 105-125, 171-211, 261-296

Castells, Manuel. 2012. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Pp. 110-155

Tuğal, Cihan. Forthcoming. "Elusive Revolt: The Contradictory Rise of Middle-Class Politics." *Thesis Eleven*

Week 10: Occupy Wall Street

Castells, Manuel. *Networks of Outrage and Hope*. Pp. 156-217

Milkman, Ruth, Stephanie Luce and Penny Lewis. 2013. *Changing the Subject: a Bottom-Up Account of Occupy Wall Street in New York City*. New York: Joseph Murphy Institute, CUNY. (Available online. http://sps.cuny.edu/filestore/1/5/7/1_a05051d2117901d/1571_92f562221b8041e.pdf)

Week 11: The Arab Spring

Goldstone, Jack A. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies." *Foreign Affairs* 90/3.

(Available on the library website. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north-africa/2011-04-14/understanding-revolutions-2011>)

Kurzman, Charles. 2012. "The Arab Spring Uncoiled," *Mobilization* 17/4: 377-390.

(Available on the library website.

<http://mobilizationjournal.org/doi/pdf/10.17813/maiq.17.4.10326742n0556v15>)

Clarke, Killian. 2014. "Unexpected Brokers of Mobilization: Contingency and Networks in the 2011 Egyptian Uprising." *The Journal of Comparative Politics* 46/4: 379-397.

(Available on the library website.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/cuny/cp/2014/00000046/00000004/art00002>)

Week 12: Class dynamics in the Middle East

Beissinger, Mark, Amaney Jamal, and Kevin Mazur. Forthcoming. "Explaining Divergent Revolutionary Coalitions: A Micro-Level Comparison of Participation in the Tunisian and Egyptian Revolutions."

(Available online. <https://projectcontentiouspolitics.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/amaney.pdf>)

Kandil, Hazem. 2012. "Why did the Egyptian Middle Class March to Tahrir Square?"

Mediterranean Politics, 17/2: 197-215.

(Available on the library website.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13629395.2012.694044>)

Harris, Kevan. 2012. "The Brokered Exuberance of the Middle Class: an Ethnographic Analysis of Iran's 2009 Green Movement." *Mobilization* 17/4: 435-455.

(Available online.

http://kevanharris.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/kevanh/files/2012_harris_mob_the_brokered_exuberance_of_the_middle_class.pdf)