

Power and Protest: Social Movements in U.S. History, 1886-Present

Instructor: David Palter
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Monday, Wednesday 9:00AM – 12:30PM
Office Hours: By Appointment

DRC Accommodation: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

Course Description:

This course examines the history of social movements in the U.S. from the late 19th century to the present. We will look at the ideological, political and economic origins of selected movements, and explore the rhetoric and tactics they employed to achieve their goals. Additionally, we will pay close attention to the responses these movements elicited from the general public and from structures of power. Lectures and readings will prepare students to address key questions such as: is it accurate to speak of an American protest tradition? What characteristics do social movements share? To what extent is the American public responsive to collective action? And, finally, how have different institutions framed social movements over time?

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to write five brief reading response papers (1-2 pages), one longer paper on a social movement of their choice (7 pages), and a final exam. In addition to these written assignments, students will be expected to attend all sessions and participate in class discussion. As the reading response papers are designed to facilitate class discussion, no late papers will be accepted.

Graded Requirements:

Response Papers: 25%

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Final Paper: 25%

Final: 30%

Lecture Schedule

Week One

Monday

Introductions

Lecture: Frames: Working-Class History and Social Movements

Film: *Los Mineros*

Wednesday

Lecture: Labor and Populism in the Gilded Age

Film: *Act of War: the Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation*

Reading Discussion I:

Frances Fox Piven, *Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How they Fail*, Chapter 1 (reader)

Lawrence Goodwyn, *The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*, Chapter 2 (reader)

Week 2

Monday

Lecture: The Women's Movements

Film: *Not for Ourselves Alone, Part II*

Reading Discussion II:

Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, *Votes for Women!: The Woman Suffrage Movement in Tennessee, the South, and the Nation*, Chapter 2 (reader)

Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*, Introduction (reader)

Dawn Keetly, *Public Women, Public Words: A Documentary History of American Feminism*, p. 310-324 (reader)

Excerpt from the Autobiography of Frances Willard (available online at <http://www.historymatters.gmu.edu/d/92>)

Wednesday

Lecture: 100% Americanism: Nativist Movements at the Turn of the 20th Century

Film: Selections from *Race: the Power of an Illusion Part 3*

Reading Discussion III:

Kathleen Blee, *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s*, Chapter 1 (reader)

Alexandra Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* Chapter 2 (reader)

Week 3

Monday

****One Paragraph Final Paper Proposal Due Today****

Lecture: Progressive-Era Movements

Film: *America, 1900*

Reading Discussion IV:

George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Chapter 4 (online through library)

Victor Low, *The Unimpressible Race*, Chapter 5 (reader)

Wednesday

Lecture: More than "Ham and Eggs": Responses to the Great Depression

Film: *The Great Depression: We Have a Plan*

Reading Discussion V:

Annelise Orleck, "We are that Mythical Thing Called the Public" Militant Housewives during the Great Depression" (reader)

Devra Anne Weber: "Raiz Fuerte: Oral History and Mexicana Farmworkers" (reader)

Week 4

Monday

Lecture: Beyond "the Sixties": Civil Rights Movements in Context, I

Film: *At the River I Stand*

Reading Discussion VI:

Bruce Nelson, "Organized Labor and the Struggle for Black Equality in Mobile During World War II" (reader)

Selections from Jo Ann Robinson, *The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It* (reader)

Wednesday

Lecture: Beyond "the Sixties": Civil Rights Movements in Context, II

Film: *Alcatraz is not an Island*

Reading Discussion VII:

Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965*, Chapter 5 (reader)

Vicki Ruiz, *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America*, Chapter 6 (reader)

Week 5

Monday

****Final Paper Due Today****

Lecture: Do they Serve Tea at Occupy Wall Street?: Contemporary Social Movements

Film: Selections from *The Corporation*

Reading Discussion VIII:

Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*, Chapter 13 (reader)

Howard Zinn, *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*, Introduction (reader)

Wednesday

****Final Exam****