

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE  
Department of Sociology

**Sociology 67: Social Movements**

Spring 2005

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00-11:50

Professor Misagh Parsa

Office: Room 102 Silsby

Phone: x3166

Office Hours:

Weds. 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Social movements are defined as non-institutionalized collective action geared to promote or resist change in social structures. Based on the premise that a large part of significant social change in modern societies stems from collective action, this course starts by examining various theories of social movements. These theories will then be examined in light of specific American social movements, such as the civil rights movement, the labor movement, the women's movement, as well as others such as the KKK and the John Birch Society. For each of these cases, we will analyze the conditions leading to their rise, ideology, composition, course of development, and current status. Finally, the course will analyze conditions that lead to the formation of social movements that attempt to seize state power and transform the entire social structure. As an example, we will study the revolution in Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines.

The course will rely heavily on films and videos that help us understand the dynamics of social movements, their process, and outcomes. As such, they are an integral part of our learning. Thus, class attendance and participation is an important part of the course.

**Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Academic Skills Center may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.**

**Course Requirements:**

1. Three take-home exams
2. Class attendance and participation

**Required Textbooks:**

- Aldon Morris. *Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change*. MacMillan, 1984

- Misagh Parsa. *States, Ideologies, and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.

### **Reserve readings:**

- Robert Goldberg, *Grassroots Resistance*, Wadsworth, 1991.
- Piven and Cloward, *Poor People's Movement: Why They Succeed, How They Fail*. Vintage Press, 1977.
- McCarthy and Zald, "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory," *American Journal of Sociology*, 1977, Vol. 82, No. 6.
- Moaddel, "Ideology as Episodic Discourse: The Case of the Iranian Revolution," *American Sociological Review* 57 (1992) 353-379.
- Jeffery Paige, *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Central America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.
- T. Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979.
- Skocpol, "Rentier State and Shi'a Islam in the Iranian Revolution," *Theory and Society*, 1982.
- Charles Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution*, Addison-Wesley, 1978.
- Carlos M. Vilas, *The Sandinista Revolution*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1986.
- Mark Thompson, *The Anti-Marcos Struggle*, Yale University Press, 1995.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **WEEKS 1-2**

Mar 29-Apr 8

#### **Introduction and Theories:**

Goldberg, Chapter 1  
C. Tilly, Chapters 2 and 3  
Piven and Cloward, Chapter 1  
McCarthy and Zald, "Resource Mobilization..."

#### **Film**

Title to be announced

**\*\*First Take Home Exam - Date to be announced**

### **WEEKS 3-5**

Apr 11-29.

#### **The Civil Rights movement:**

Morris, Read the entire book

Piven and Cloward, Chapter 4.

**Film:**

"Eyes on the Prize," (first eight episodes)

**\*\*Second Take Home Exam - Date to be announced**

WEEK 6

May 2-6.

**Theories of Revolutionary movements:**

Tilly, Chapter 7

Skocpol, 1979, Chapters 1

Parsa, Chapter 1

WEEKS 7-9

May 9-Jun 1.

**Revolutions in Iran, Nicaragua, and the Philippines:**

Parsa, Read the entire book

Moaddel, "Ideology...

Skocpol, "Rentier...

Paige, Chapters 5 and 9

Villas, Chapters 2-3

Thompson, Chapters 1-2 and 6-8

**Films:**

Live From Tehran

Iran: A Revolution Betrayed

Revolution in Nicaragua

To Sing Our Own Song

**\*\*Third Take-Home Exam – Date to be announced**