

SOCIAL PROTEST: STUDENT MOVEMENTS SINCE THE 1960s

Fall 2016

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Office Hours: Tuesdays immediately before and after class, but be sure to email me ahead of time.

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Tuesdays: 2.30-5.20pm

Classroom: 313 Bradley Hall

Description and Objectives

The United States has been rocked repeatedly in recent decades by protest movements that challenge deeply-entrenched inequalities and injustices. We begin in the present with Occupy Wall Street (income inequality and student debt) and Black Lives Matter (racially-oriented killings of unarmed individuals). We then turn to the Civil Rights and Anti-War movements of the 1960s and 70s. Students were prominent in each of these developments. We ask: who was involved and why? How did the police, courts, and population at large respond to these student protestors? What about families and friends of the students? Their professors? And what were they protesting? What did the students hope to accomplish in their campaigns against racial discrimination, war, and a global economy that favors the rich. What tactics did they use? What lessons did they learn? Lastly, how might we judge the successes and failures of each period?

Besides weekly readings, we view films during each class meeting. This is a discussion class, not a lecture (despite its size). If you haven't read the material, you won't be able to participate in discussions. Therefore, ... and bring the relevant book to class.

Books (available at the university bookstore and through online vendors)

- **Time Magazine, *What Is Occupy?: Inside the Global Movement* (Time Books, 9781603209410)** – posted on Blackboard or download from Kindle (the Kindle app is a free download; at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/TIME-Occupy-Inside-Global-Movement-ebook/dp/1603209417/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469402839&sr=1-3&keywords=what+is+occupy)
- **Time Magazine, *#Black Lives Matter*** (download from Kindle; at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Black-Lives-Matter-Time-Inc-ebook/dp/B019TQNJRG/ref=sr_1_9?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469402530&sr=1-9&keywords=black+lives+matter#nav-subnav)
- **Bob Zellner, *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek: A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement*** (NewSouth Books, 978-1-58838-222-1)
- **Rachel Blau Duplessis and Ann Snitow, *The Feminist Memoir Project: Voices from Women's Liberation*** (Rutgers University Press, 978-0-8135-3973-7)
- **Huey P. Newton, *Revolutionary Suicide*** (Penguin Books, 978-0-14-310532-9)
- **John Clegg, 'Black Representation After Ferguson', *The Brooklyn Rail*, May 2016,** <http://www.brooklynrail.org/2016/05/field-notes/black-representation-after-ferguson>

Evaluations

Quizzes: Every class begins with a 20-minute graded writing assignment based on the reading for that day. While everyone takes the quiz, only some students will have them graded (for instance, one class it might be everyone whose last name begins with A-M; the next class it might be M-S). The system is random. Not everyone winds up with the same number of graded quizzes.

--Beginning October 11, quizzes grades count double.

--All quizzes are judged according to their organization, command of themes and details, and length. Your final grade is an average of your quiz grades, plus participation and attendance.

Participation is used to round your final grade up. Grades default down, except if participation is used to round your grade up. The discussions, of course, presuppose that you have read the assigned material already. You will not be penalized if you do not participate, but regular and active participation will count in your favor.

Attendance: Everyone is allowed one absence, no justifications necessary. Two or more absences and your final grade may be reduced one or more levels.

Violence and Derogatory Words: Many of the films contain violence (both actual and reenacted), mostly police and vigilante violence towards protestors. Some of the films also contain racial slurs, also emanating from the police and vigilantes. You are forewarned.

Electronics: You are welcome to use electronic devices for class-related purposes. Please turn off your cell phone and refrain from texting and emailing during class and during films especially. These activities are very distracting.

Skills: This class places heavy emphasis on developing the following skills: close reading, speed writing, persuasive conversation. You are not expected to be a master of these skills at the start of the class, but we will work systematically at developing these skills over the course of the semester.

Cheating: What is true for this class is true for every class that you take – cheating of any sort is VERBOTEN and will result in an F grade on a quiz, possibly an F grade for the course, and possible further sanctions by the Dean's Office. In other words, don't cheat.