

Spring 2015: The Women's Movement

Professor Rachel V. Kutz-Flamenbaum
Soc 3397: Topics in Social Movements
Spring 2014: Monday 2:00-4:30

Office: WWPB 2421
Office Hours: Mon 9:30-11:30 and by appt.
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This course will take an historical perspective to study the ways that women have mobilized over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Although the course considers international and global perspectives, it primarily focuses on the breadth of women's mobilizations in the U.S. since 1900. We

will read both classic and newer books as we take a chronological approach that begins with the Suffrage movement in the U.S. and continues to second wave feminism, the women's liberation movement of the 1970's, the pro-choice movement, the women's peace movements and ecofeminism. Through our historical case studies, we will interrogate key theoretical questions including how to define a women's movement, whether women's rights can ever be universal, threats of essentialism to women's rights, the relationship between maternalism and feminism, and the notion that women's rights are human rights.

The class is fundamentally a social movement course. Movements are a primary agent of social and political change for nation-states, groups and individuals. This seminar is designed to interrogate several core theoretical topics in social movement literature including framing, identity, ideology, coalitions, organizational structures, and cycles of protest. Each week's class will seek to highlight one of these concepts through lecture and supplementary readings. In addition, the Sociology Department Speakers Series has several eminent social movement scholars presenting their work at Pitt this Spring. Students should plan to attend these talks as we will be integrating them into our class discussions.

This course is also a Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and Cultural Studies course as it is focused on the relationship between culture and politics and aggressively interrogates contested meanings of sex, gender and politics.

READINGS:

Each week we will read either a book or a set of articles. The date the readings are listed on the syllabus is the due date. Most of the books have been requested at the bookstore. You may also easily acquire the books through online ordering sites. Articles are available electronically through the library. Book chapters will either be posted on Blackboard/Courseweb (BB) or made available in class.

This course requires a significant amount of reading. You are expected to complete the readings and come to class ready to actively discuss them. Of course, I understand that on occasion you may fall a little behind. If that occurs, please come to class and participate to the best of your ability.

COURSEWORK:

This is a discussion based seminar. To prepare for class, you should develop at least two questions or comments that you think would be interesting for the class to talk about. This means you should work to develop idea based discussion questions, not fact based inquiries.

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Please bring your questions to class for use in the discussion and also submit to me by email prior to class (no later than Monday 9 am).

In addition, each of you will also be responsible for leading the discussion for one class session. To prepare for this task, you should write a 3-4 page analytical commentary on the book or articles and send that to me and your classmates (by email) no later than Thursday at noon the week before your presentation. Your commentary should direct your classmates to consider questions or issues that you think are interesting or important and should also be the outline for your presentation and discussion. For the presentation, the presenting student will be asked to open up the discussion following my lecture by giving a 5 minute presentation that summarizes, synthesizes and analyzes the week's reading within the broader course content and then opens the discussion by posing one or more broad discussion questions. Students should also seek to integrate questions or comment about the department speakers in their papers and presentation. Students will sign up for their discussion week during the first week of class.

Each student will also write a 15-20 page seminar paper. The seminar paper may be a literature review, a theoretical exploration of an important question or debate or an empirical evaluation of a specific women's movement. Ideally, these papers may be part of your MA thesis, comps or dissertation proposal. Students should plan to meet with me to discuss and finalize their topics before Spring Break.

The first draft of the research paper is due April 6. Papers will be presented on April 6 and 13th. Rewrites may be done after the presentation. Final submission dates can be determined on a case by case basis.

GRADE MATRIX:

Final Papers and Final Presentation	60%
Weekly Questions & Class Participation	20%
Comment Paper and Class Discussion Leading	15%
Attendance at Speakers Events	5%

POLICIES

- You are required to check the class courseweb (BB) account regularly as any announcements regarding class will be posted there.
- No late papers will be accepted without [advance approval from the professor](#). Assuming you have a reasonable excuse, I generally grant extension requests.
- You must submit a hard copy of papers directly to me or in my mailbox. I cannot accept electronic submissions for papers.
- Papers that do not include proper citation or are not spell checked or proof read will receive a grade reduction.
- Attending class is your choice. When you are in attendance, however, you are expected to give your attention fully to the class. If you are not able to do that, you should not attend.
- Respect that everyone has ideas and opinions and do not dominate the conversation.

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html) (<http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html>) Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

DISABILITY POLICY

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drswelcome) (<http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drswelcome>) 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRW will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

EMAIL POLICY

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1/5: Introductions and Overview

1/12: What is a women's movement? And Introduction to First Wave Feminism

Ferree, Myra Marx, and Carol McClurg Mueller. 2004. "Feminism and the Women's Movement: A Global Perspective." Pp. 576-607 in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, edited by Davis Snow, Sarah Soule, and Hanspieter Kreisi. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (BB)

Staggenborg, S., and V. Taylor. 2005. "Whatever happened to the women's movement?" *Mobilization* 10(1):37-52.

Faupel, A., and R. Werum. 2011. "'Making Her Own Way': The Individualization of First-Wave Feminist, 1910-1930" *Mobilization* 16(2):181-201.

McCammon, Holly J. 2003. "'Out of the parlors and into the streets': The changing tactical repertoire of the US women's suffrage movements." *Social Forces* 81(3):787-818.

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Recommended for Repertoires of Contention:

Tilly, Charles, and Lesley Wood. 2009. *Social Movements, 1768-2008: Second Edition*: Paradigm Publishers, 2nd Edition.

Tilly, Charles. 2005 [1995]. *Popular Contention in Great Britain: 1758-1834*. London: Paradigm Publishers.

Wada, Takeshi 2012. "Modularity and Transferability of Repertoires of Contention." *Social Problems* 59(4):544-71.

1/19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes

1/26: First Wave Feminism and the Suffrage Movement

Finnegan, Margaret. 1999. *Selling Suffrage*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Recommended on Framing:

Benford, Robert D. 1997. "An insider's critique of the social movement framing perspective." *Sociological Inquiry* 67(4):409-30.

Snow, David A., E. Burke Bochford, Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review* 51(August):464-81.

Oliver, Pamela E., and Hank Johnston. 2000. "What a Good Idea: Frames and Ideology in Social Movement Research." *Mobilization* 5(37-54).

2/2: First Wave International Women's Movement

Rupp, Leila. 1997. *Worlds of Women*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

2/9: Sociology Department Speaker: Jeff Goodwin, NYU Professor. 12:00 pm WWPB 2432 Class will meet immediately following Professor Goodwin's talk to discuss the talk and week's reading. We will end early.

Universalism, Internationalism & Collective Identity & Continuity and Abeyance

Bernstein, Mary. 2003. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained? Conceptualizing social movement "success" in the lesbian and gay movement." *Sociological Perspectives* 46(3):353-79.

Pernet, C. A. 2000. "Chilean feminists, the international women's movement, and suffrage, 1915-1950." *Pacific Historical Review* 69(4):663-88.

Staggenborg, S. 1998. "Social movement communities and cycles of protest: The emergence and maintenance of a local women's movement." *Social Problems* 45(2):180-204.

Taylor, Verta. 1989. "Social Movement Continuity: The Women's Movement in Abeyance." *American Sociological Review* 54(5):761-75.

Recommended:

Goodwin, Jeff and James M. Jasper. 2004. "Trouble in Paradigms." in *Rethinking Social Movements*, edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper. 2004: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Reger, Jo. 2001. "Motherhood and the construction of feminist identities: Variations in a women's movement organization." *Sociological Inquiry* 71(1):85-110.

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Rupp, Leila, and Verta Taylor. 1987. *Survival in the Doldrums: The American Women's Rights Movement, 1945 to the 1960s*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

2/16: Women's Liberation Movement

Evans, Sara. 1979. *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement & the New Left*. New York, New York: Vintage Books.

Freeman, Jo. 1969. "The BITCH Manifesto." in *Notes from the Second Year: Redstockings Archives for Action*. (BB)

Recommended:

Freeman, Jo. 1970. "The Tyranny of Structurelessness." (BB)

2/19 at 12:00 pm: Sociology Department Speaker: Gregory M. Maney

2/23: Women in the Anti-war movement

Epstein, Barbara. 1991. *Political Protest & Cultural Revolution: Nonviolent Direct Action in the 1970s and 1980s*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press

Recommended:

Meyer, David, and Nancy Whittier. 1994. "Social Movement Spillover." *Social Problems* 41(2):277-98.

Leppanen, K. 2004. "At peace with Earth - Connecting ecological destruction and patriarchal civilisation." *Journal of Gender Studies* 13(1):37-47.

3/2: Maternalism and Feminism

Ruddick, Sara. 1989. *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*. New York, NY: Ballantine Books.

3/5 at 11:30 am: Sociology Department Speaker Sidney Tarrow

3/9: Spring Break – no class

3/16: Prochoice Movement

Staggenborg, Suzanne. 1994. *The Pro-Choice Movement: Organization and Activism in the Abortion Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended:

Luna, Zakiya T. 2010. "Marching Toward Reproductive Justice: Coalitional (Re)Framing of the March for Women's Lives." *Sociological Inquiry* 80(4):554-78.

3/19 at 11:30 am: Sociology Department Speaker Zakiya Luna

3/20 9:00-3:30 Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies Conference on Reproductive Rights, Politics, Health and Access at the University Club

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Speakers include: Professors Suzanne Staggenborg, Zakiya Luna, Rachel Kranson, Gil Frank, Marianne Novy and others including local activists and practitioners. Full program to be circulated in class.

3/23: Community Activism and Mothering

Naples, Nancy. 1998. *Grassroots Warriors: Activist Mothering, Community Work, and the War on Poverty*. New York, NY: Routledge.

3/30: Homemaking and Homesteading

Hayes, Shannon. 2010. *Radical Homemakers*. Left to Write Press

4/6: What and Where is the Women's Movement?

Reger, Jo. 2012. *Everywhere and Nowhere*. Oxford University Press.

4/13: Final Comments and Presentations