This course explores the emergence of social movements in the United States. Although the course considers a variety of social movements in the 20th century, it will investigate the mechanics of social movements rather than the history of movement organizations or movement leaders. You will be responsible for applying theoretical concepts about the formation and decline of movements to particular episodes of protest. The central questions to be considered are (1) why do movements emerge and decline? (2) what kinds of resources are mobilized to start and sustain movements? (3) how do marginal groups construct world views to challenge their oppression?; and 4) how does the political system respond to movements when they challenge the status quo? The first section of the course will cover theoretical concepts that are essential to understanding social movements. The rest of the course will analyze movement dynamics in the context of the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and the women’s movement.

Course requirements are as follows:

Two short papers (5 pages each) (40%)
Midterm Exam (30%)
Take-Home Final Exam (25%)
Class Participation (5%)

Students will be required to apply theoretical perspectives to particular movement cases in their short paper assignments. The first paper is due September 30th and will cover the worker’s movement. The second paper is due November 11th and will explore why movements emerge and why they decline. No late papers will be accepted without a documented excuse and without prior permission from Professor Harris. Essays should be well-argued; points will be deducted for badly written essays. The midterm exam will take place on October 21st. Class attendance is a requirement, not an option. I will periodically take attendance. Since a considerable amount of class time
will be devoted to extensive discussion of the material, your grade for class participation will be a combination of regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions.

For students taking this course for writing credit (PSC 220w), you will be required to rewrite one of the two paper assignments. The paper may be rewritten within the two weeks after the original draft has been graded and returned. The original paper should be attached whenever a rewrite is submitted. Grades received on the two versions of the paper will each constitute half the paper's grade. There will be several opportunities to earn extra-credit throughout the semester. These extra writing assignments would require your attendance at film presentations, conference presentations, and lectures on the civil rights movement. Several events are listed below in bold letters. I will announce the details of the events and how you can earn extra credit during class. Stay tuned.

Required Books:


Part I: Theories of Social Movements

Introduction: September 2

Week I: The Meaning of Social Movements

September 7th & 9th

Week II: Mobilizing Resources for Movements

September 14th & 16th

Fredrick Harris, “Will the Circle Be UnBroken?: The Erosion and Transformation of African-American Civic Life.” (On Reserve)

Aldon Morris and Naomi Braine, “Social Movements and Oppositional
Consciousness.” (On Reserve)

Fredrick Harris, “When a Little Becomes Much” and “Prophetic Fragments” (On Reserve)

Week III: Labor Movement in Appalachia

September 21st & 23rd

Gaventa, Chapters 1-4.


http://www.rochester-citynews.com/gbase/Gyrosite/Content?oid=oid%3A2798

**Speaker, Professor Thomas Sugrue, “Sweet Land of Liberty: The Unfinished Struggle for Racial Equality in the North,” September 23rd, 8pm, Wells-Brown Room, Rush Rhees Library.**


Week IV: Labor Movement in Appalachia

September 28th & 30th

Gaventa, Chapters 5-10

Week V: Poor People’s Movements

October 5th & 7th

Piven and Cloward, Introduction and Chapters, 1-3.

*First Short Paper Due on the 5th.*

Week VI: Poor People’s Movements

October 12th & 14th

Piven and Cloward, Chapter 5

Week VII: Midterm & Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

October 19th: The Historical Construction of the Civil Rights Movement
October 21st: Midterm

Week VIII: The Political Process Model and the Civil Rights Movement

October 26th & 28th.
McAdam, Chapters 1-5.

Film: “The Murder of Emmett Till,” presented by filmmaker Stanley Nelson. 7pm in Hubbell Auditorium (Hutch. 141).

Week IX: Political Process II

November 2nd & 4th
McAdam, Chapters, 6-9

Lecture: Philosophy Professor Darrell Moore of DePaul University will present a lecture titled “James Baldwin and the Black Aesthetics Movement.” November 4, 4pm, Wells-Brown Room, Rush Rhees Library.

Week X: Origins of the Women’s Movement

November 9th & 11th
Evans, 1-4

*Second Short Paper Due on the 11th

Week XI: Origins of the Women’s Movement

November 16th & 18th,
Evans, 5-8
Mansbridge, 1-4

Week XII: No Class

November 23rd, No class
November 25th, Thanksgiving

Week XIII: Countermovements and Institutionalization
November 30th, Mansbridge, 5-10
December 2nd, No Class

Week XIV: Equal Rights Amendment

December 7th & 9th
Mansbridge, Chapters, 11-14

Distribute Take-Home Final