

**Political Science 461/661**  
**Seminar on Social Movements and Protests**  
**Spring Quarter, 2005**

**Instructor:** Dr. Laura M. Luehrmann  
12:20-2:00

**Office:** 313 Millett Hall  
**Phone:** 775-3197

**Seminar Times:** Tues, Thurs

**Location:** 056 University Hall  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**

"Those with power rarely think about it. Those without power always do." **Thomas Friedman**

"The dry grass will set fire to the damp grass." **African proverb brought to N America by slaves**

**Course Objectives:**

This course is about activism. Specifically, we will look at group behavior motivated by the desire to change political, economic, cultural and social systems. In this course, we have two goals: (1) to study examples of protests and social movements around the world, as a way of understanding the accomplishments of collective action; and (2) to examine theories that explain why some examples of activism have been more successful than others.

**Student Responsibilities:**

**Required Readings:**

One textbook is required for the course : (Additional readings not included in this book have been placed on e-reserve at the Dunbar Library.)

Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, editors, *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* (Blackwell Publishing, 2003).

Students pursuing *graduate credit* will also read Charles Tilly, *Social Movements, 1768-2004* (Paradigm Publishers, 2004).

**Attendance, Readings and Participation:**

This is a seminar course, and students are required to attend all sessions and to regularly participate in discussion. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences will receive a zero for the "participation" portion of the final grade.

Students need to read and take notes on assigned readings before each meeting:

our class discussion will be designed to build upon the reading material.

Students will also be required to participate in the classroom studio for PLS 461/661, available on the University's WINGS portal (<http://wings.wright.edu>). After entering your WSU username and password, go to the "Academics" Tab and then find "My Courses." Here you will find each of your WSU courses. After the quarter begins, we will "consolidate" both sections of the course into one unit. The instructor will post news items, internet links, handouts and other important material to the WINGS studio. In order to use WINGS, *students must use their Wright State University e-mail account*. For questions about your WSU account, password, etc., please contact Computing and Telecommunications Services (CATS) at 775-4827.

### **Research Paper:**

Students will complete a 10-15 page paper (typed, double-spaced) analyzing a single protest or social movement (graduate student papers should be approximately 20 pages.) Students are strongly encouraged to research a movement outside of the United States. In addition to outlining the organization, structure, and goals of the movement, students will also be required to assess its strengths and weaknesses. Students are expected to apply the concepts and theories from our seminar discussion in the paper.

Students will be required to turn in their research topic and *annotated bibliography* during week 5. While internet sources are welcomed, the working bibliography needs to include at least 5 printed sources, and the final bibliography should include, at a minimum, 12 sources (of which 8 must be non-internet). Consultation with WSU's Writing Center (031 Library, 775-4186) is strongly advised. The Final Paper will be due the last day of class. Late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day.

### **Exams:**

All students will be required to complete two exams, a midterm and a final. Exam questions will be identification and essay, and they will be take-home exams. All exams must be typed with proper citations. It is extremely important that all assignments be turned in on time; 5 points will be deducted for each day late. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.

### **Academic Honesty:**

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Please consult the student code of conduct for academic integrity at <http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/integrity.html>. Violations of academic honesty, including plagiarism or failure to cite sources, will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to the university committee on academic misconduct.

**Undergraduate Credit:**

Grades will be based on:

Exam 1:	25%
Annotated Bibliography:	10%
Research Paper:	25%
Exam 2:	30%
Participation:	

**Graduate Credit:**

Grades will be based on:

Exam 1:	25%
Annotated Bibliography:	10%
Exam 2:	25%
Research Paper:	20%
Seminar Papers (Tilly):	