

**POSC 35023**  
**Michael Strausz**

**Comparative Social Movements**  
**Spring 2014**

---

**course time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:00pm-2:50pm

**classroom:** Reed 319

**e-mail:** michael.strausz@tcu.edu

**office hours:** Tuesdays 10:00am-12:00pm, Wednesdays 1:00-1:50pm, or by appointment

**office:** Scharbauer 2007F

---

**Course Description and Objectives:** Why do people join together in protest, often at great cost to themselves in money, time, and risk of serious personal injury? Why and how do social movements influence politics? How do social movements choose their tactics, and which tactics tend to be effective in which circumstances? This class will address these questions both theoretically and through in-depth study of the American civil rights movement, Japanese groups that have organized around the rights of foreign residents, and anti-globalization protests in El Salvador. This class aims to deepen your understanding of social movements, strengthen your ability to evaluate contemporary issues relating to social movements, talk and write about those issues in an informed and coherent manner, and to conduct research relating to social movements.

**Expectations and Course Policies:**

1. *Assigned readings:* Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials, and bring the day's assigned reading to class with you.
2. *Current events:* Regularly (at least once before each class – so three times per week) read a newspaper, focusing on the articles about social movements.
3. *Attendance Policy:* Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. If you miss a class where an in-class activity or pop quiz was administered, you will receive a grade of zero unless the absence was an Official University Absence or unless the absence was due to properly documented illness or a properly documented personal/family emergency. If you leave early on a day when you submitted work (without prior approval) you will receive a grade of zero on that work.
4. *Technology Policy:* Students wishing to use computers, smartphones, recording devices, or other electronic devices in class are required to come to my office hours to discuss acceptable classroom use of technology and to sign a contract indicating that you will use those devices responsibly.
5. *Extra Credit:* If there are events at TCU or in the community that are related to this course, I may decide to grant extra credit to students who both attend and write a brief paper about the event. If I decide to make this kind of extra credit assignment, the specifics will be emailed out to all students enrolled in the class (so check your TCU email!).
6. *Deadlines:* Deadlines for assignments are strictly enforced. An assignment submitted after the deadline will lose 10 points (out of 100) if it is submitted within 24 hours after the deadline, 20 points (out of 100) if it is submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline, 30 points (out of 100) if it is submitted between 48 and 72 hours after the deadline, etc. So, for example, if a paper deadline is 10am on Monday and you submit your paper at 11am, you will automatically lose 10 points. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

7. *Student Disability Services:* Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.
8. *Academic Misconduct:* I expect that the work that you turn in will be your own. Students determined to have committed academic misconduct will face penalties including (but not limited to) a grade of zero on the related assignment. I will not hesitate to bring suspected academic misconduct to the proper authorities. For more information on TCU's academic misconduct policy, see Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook.

**Grading:** Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

- Reading Quizzes (at least 8) and other in-class exercises: 25%
- First Short Analysis Paper: 15%
- Second Short Analysis Paper: 15%
- Final research paper (9-11 pages): 35%
- Oral presentation of research findings: 10%

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale as follows:

A: 93.5 and above	B: 82.5-86.4	C: 72.5-76.4	D: 62.5-66.4
A-: 89.5-93.4	B-: 79.5-82.4	C-: 69.5-72.4	D-: 59.5-62.4
B+: 86.5-89.4	C+: 76.5-79.4	D+: 66.5-69.4	F: 59.4 and below

Paper deadline extensions will not be allowed except in the cases of Official University Absence or properly document illness/personal/family emergency.

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. The appeal process must be started one week after the exam/homework was returned.

**Quizzes:** We will have at least eight quizzes in this class. The quizzes will mostly cover assigned readings, but might also touch on current events related to social movements and/or materials that we have covered in class. If you do the readings, follow current events, and pay attention in class, your quiz grade should end up being quite high. Quizzes will usually take place at the beginning of class, and no extra time will be granted to students arriving late. If you miss a class because of a properly documented illness, a properly documented personam/family emergency, or an Official University Absence, you have one week to either visit my office hours or make an appointment with me to make up your quiz. If you wait more than one week to see me after missing a class where a quiz was given, you will receive a grade of zero for the missed quiz. Students who miss classes for reasons other than Official University Absences, properly

documented illnesses, or properly documented personal/family emergency will receive a grade of zero for missed quizzes.

**Short Analysis Papers:** At several points throughout the semester, I will distribute short (3-4 page) analysis paper prompts that ask you to think about things that we have read about and/or discussed in class. You are required to write on two of these prompts. Should you decide to submit more than two paper throughout the semester, only the highest two grades will count toward your final grade. You will have one week after getting an analysis paper back to revise the paper and resubmit it for a better grade (assuming that the original analysis paper was turned in on time and was the appropriate length). However, in order to resubmit a paper you must follow the resubmission guidelines that I will distribute in class. Late resubmissions will not be accepted.

**Final Research Paper:** Students will complete a research project regarding a topic in social movements that interests them. This research project will have several components. First, students are required to turn in a rough draft of their topic and thesis statement by **2:00 pm on Friday, January 31**. Second, students are required to submit an annotated bibliography by **2:00 pm on Friday, March 7**. Each of these components—the rough draft of the topic and the annotated bibliography—is worth 1% of your final grade (meaning that the research paper itself is actually worth 33%). Each of these components will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, meaning if you turn in an acceptable topic and bibliography, you will get 100% on 2% of your final grade. Similarly, late topics and annotated bibliographies will each result in grades of zero for 1% of your final grade. I will only accept research papers from people that have had a topic approved, and had an annotated bibliography approved. Even if your topic and bibliography are late (and thus you don't receive credit), you are still required to turn them in in order to be permitted to turn in your final paper. Specific assignments for the research paper and for each of these components of the research paper will be distributed early in the semester. The final version of the research paper should be 9-11 page, and it will be due at **10:30 am on Wednesday, May 7**.

**Oral Presentation of Research Findings:** During the last two weeks of class, each student will be required to make an oral presentation on their research findings. Specific assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

**Office Hours:** I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. Also, if you have any comments about or problems with the course itself I encourage you to share them in my office hours.

If you would like to get in touch with me to ask a question or schedule an appointment, I encourage you to e-mail me. No appointments are necessary to visit during my regularly scheduled office hours.

**Course Materials:** The following books are required:  
Harvard Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality*

Apichai Shipper, *Fighting for Foreigners: Immigration and its Impact on Japanese Democracy*  
Paul D. Almeida, *Waves of Protest: Popular Struggle in El Salvador, 1925-2005*

**Schedule:**

13-Jan *Introduction*  
No assigned reading

15-Jan *Why social movements?*  
Chenoweth, Erica. 2013. "Why Sit-Ins Succeed -- Or Fail: Without a Broader Strategy, Pro-Morsi Encampments Are Unlikely to Work." *Foreign Affairs*.

Also, look over the rest of this class's LearningStudio site (particularly the webliography)

**Unit 1: Theories of Social Movements**

17-Jan *When is it rational to protest?*  
Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-16

20-Jan Martin Luther King Jr. Day

22-Jan *How do rational states respond to protest?*  
Weiss, Jessica Chen. 2013. "Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China." *International Organization* no. 67 (01):1-35

24-Jan *Protest and political opportunities*  
Meyer, David S., and Suzanne Staggenborg. 1996. "Movements, Countermovements, and the Structure of Political Opportunity." *American Journal of Sociology* no. 101 (6):1628-1644, 1654-1656

27-Jan *Framing a movement*  
McCarthy, John D. 1994. "Activists, Authorities, and Media Framing of Drunk Driving." In *New Social Movements: From Ideology to Identity*, edited by Enrique Laraña, Hank Johnston and Joseph R. Gusfield, 133-167. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

29-Jan *The psychology of protest*  
Weyland, Kurt. 2012. "The Arab Spring: Why the Surprising Similarities with the Revolutionary Wave of 1848?" *Perspectives on Politics* no. 10 (04):917-934.

31-Jan *Movement 2.0*  
Farrell, Henry. 2012. "The Consequences of the Internet for Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* no. 15 (1):35-52

**Research paper topic and thesis due at 2:00pm**

3-Feb *Social Movement Theory*  
No assigned reading

## **Unit 2: The Civil Rights Movement**

5-Feb *Eyes on the Prize*  
No assigned reading

7-Feb *The framing of the American civil rights movement*  
Sitkoff, 3-36  
**First optional analysis paper due at 2:00pm**

10-Feb *The cradle rocks*  
Sitkoff, 37-60

12-Feb *Civil rights and the Cold War*  
Sitkoff, 61-87

14-Feb *The long journey*  
Sitkoff, 88-117

17-Feb *Courts and movements*  
Sitkoff, 118-154

19-Feb *How many roads?*  
Sitkoff, 155-183

21-Feb *The international legacy of the civil rights movement*  
Sitkoff, 183-209

24-Feb *Wrapping up Sitkoff*  
Sitkoff, 210-235

26-Feb *Eyes on the Prize*  
No assigned reading

28-Feb *Civil rights and social movement theory*  
No assigned reading

## **Unit 3: Foreigners' Rights in Japan**

3-Mar *Shipper's theory*  
Shipper, 25-58  
**Second optional analysis paper due at 2:00pm**

5-Mar *Fingerprinting*  
Shipper, 59-87

- 7-Mar *Diaspora activism*  
Shipper, 88-127  
**Research paper annotated bibliography due at 2:00pm**
- 10-Mar to Spring break  
14-Mar
- 17-Mar *Foreigners voting?*  
Shipper, 128-155
- 19-Mar *Local governments and social movements*  
Shipper, 156-187
- 21-Mar *Wrapping up Shipper*  
Shipper, 188-201
- 24-Mar *Sour Strawberries*  
No assigned reading
- 26-Mar *What we now know*  
No assigned reading
- 28-Mar Dr. Strausz will attend the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies; class is cancelled.

### **Unit 4: Anti-Globalization Protest in El Salvador**

- 31-Mar *Guest lecturer: Dr. Mike Dodson*  
No assigned reading
- 2-Apr *Protest in the Global South*  
Almeida, 1-10  
**Third optional analysis paper due at 2:00pm**
- 4-Apr *Globalization and protest*  
Almeida, 11-34
- 7-Apr *El Salvador, 1925-1962*  
Almeida, 35-69
- 9-Apr *Mass mobilization in El Salvador*  
Almeida, 70-102
- 11-Apr *The Protection Racket State*  
Almeida, 135-160

- 14-Apr *Mobilization by globalization*  
Almeida, 174-208
- 16-Apr *Wrapping up Almeida*  
Almeida, 209-218
- 18-Apr Good Friday
- 21-Apr *What we now know about social movements*  
No assigned reading
- 23-Apr *Research paper presentations*  
No assigned reading
- 25-Apr *Research paper presentations*  
No assigned reading
- 28-Apr *Research paper presentations*  
No assigned reading  
**Fourth optional analysis paper due at 2:00pm**
- 30-Apr *Wrapping it all up*  
No assigned reading
- 7-May **Research paper due at 10:30am**