

Saving the World or Wasting Time: Understanding the Impact of Social Movements and Activism

Waiting On The World To Change – John Mayer (2006)

me and all my friends
we're all misunderstood
they say we stand for nothing and
there's no way we ever could
now we see everything that's going wrong
with the world and those who lead it
we just feel like we don't have the means
to rise above and beat it

so we keep waiting
waiting on the world to change
we keep on waiting
waiting on the world to change

it's hard to beat the system
when we're standing at a distance
so we keep waiting
waiting on the world to change
now if we had the power
to bring our neighbors home from war
they would have never missed a Christmas
no more ribbons on their door
and when you trust your television
what you get is what you got
cause when they own the information, oh
they can bend it all they want

that's why we're waiting
waiting on the world to change
we keep on waiting
waiting on the world to change

it's not that we don't care,
we just know that the fight ain't fair
so we keep on waiting
waiting on the world to change

and we're still waiting
waiting on the world to change
we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change
one day our generation
is gonna rule the population
so we keep on waiting
waiting on the world to change

we keep on waiting
waiting on the world to change

The Times they are a Changin' – Bob Dylan (1964)

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone.
If your time to you
Is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'.

Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'.
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'.

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
There's a battle outside
And it is ragin'.
It'll soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'.

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is
Rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'.

The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin'.
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'.

Introduction

We are in this class to learn about how we can and cannot improve our world by engaging in activism.

Attendance:

Show up, learn, contribute (20% of the grade) and do not lose points for missing quizzes

Grading:

Participation: 15%

- contributing to classroom discussion through informed commentary/reflection about reading and/or prior discussion

Individual Examination: 40%

- one formal test (25%)
- an undisclosed number of informal quizzes, administered randomly throughout the semester (15%)
 - o if a quiz is missed and there is no University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be issued a “0” for the assignment.
 - o if missed is missed and there is a University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be given a make-up examination.

Group Assignment: 20%

- all team members must participate, overall product must be divided across team members (what is being pursued, why does the problem exist, what strategies were applied to fix the problem, what would success look like and was the effort successful) and all components of the assignment must be submitted in class on the due date

Individual Final Submission: 25%

- format to be determined

Orientation and Introduction – **September 8**

Sense it

Reading:

Two Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace.... One School at a Time

– Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

September 10, 15

Small Acts of Resistance: How Courage, Tenacity and Ingenuity Can Change the World

– Steve Crenshaw and John Jackson
September 17, 22

Reading for another time:

The Activists Handbook

– Randy Shaw, University of California Press, 2001

An Action a Day Keeps Capitalism Away

– Mike Hudema, Between the Lines, 2004

Its Your World, If you Dont Like it Change it

– Mikki Halpin, Simon Pulse, 2004

Be the Change

– Michele Nunn (editor), Hundreds of Heads Books, 2006

How to Save the World in Your Spare Time

– Elizabeth May, Key Porter Book, 2007

Steal This Book

– Abbey Hoffman, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995

Study it: What we know

Reading (read articles for each class):

Amenta, Edwin, Drew Halfmann & Michael P. Young (1999): “The Strategies and Contexts of Social Protest: Political Mediation and the Impact of the Townsend Movement in California,” Mobilization 4: 1-24.

September 24

Giugni, Marco G. (1998): "Was It Worth the Effort? The Outcomes and Consequences of Social Movements," Annual Review of Sociology 24: 371-393.

September 29

Hafner-Burton, Emilie. “Sticks and Stones: Can Naming and Shaming Solve Human Rights Enforcement Problems? Manuscript.

http://www.princeton.edu/~ehafner/pdfs/sticks_stones.pdf

October 1

King, Brayden and Sarah A. Soule. “Social Movements as Extra-Institutional Entrepreneurs: The Effect of Protest on Stock Price Returns.” Administrative Science Quarterly, September 2007.

October 6

Linders, Annulla (2004): "Victory and Beyond: A Historical Comparative Analysis of the Outcomes of the Abortion Movements in Sweden and the United States," *Sociological Forum* 19: 371-404.

Luders, Joseph (2006): "The Economics of Movement Success: Business Responses to Civil Rights Mobilization," *American Journal of Sociology* 111: 963-998.

October 8 (Guest)

McAdam, Doug and Yang Su. 2002. "The War at Home: The Impact of Anti-War Protests, 1965-1973," *American Sociological Review* 67: 696-721.

McCammon, Holly J., Karen E. Campbell, Ellen M. Granberg & Christine Mowery (2001): "How Movements Win: Gendered Opportunity Structures and U.S. Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866 to 1919," *American Sociological Review* 66: 49-70.

October 13

McVeigh, Rory, Michael R. Welch & Thoroddur Bjarnason (2003): "Hate Crime Reporting as a Successful Social Movement Outcome," *American Sociological Review* 68: 843-867.

October 15 (Guest)

Soule, Sarah A. & Susan Olzak (2004): "When Do Movements Matter? The Politics of Contingency and the Equal Rights Amendment," *American Sociological Review* 69: 473-497.

Tauber, Steven (1998): "On Behalf of the Condemned? The Impact of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund on Capital Punishment Decision Making in the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Political Research Quarterly* 51(1): 191-219

October 22 [receive group assignments]

Pick any two readings:

Rojas, Fabio (2006). "Social Movement Tactics, Organizational Change and the Spread of African American Studies." *Social Forces* 84(4): 2139-2158.

Deng, Fang (1997): "Information Gaps and Unintended Outcomes of Social Movements: The 1989 Chinese Student Movement," *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1085-1112.

Meyer, David S. & Steven A. Boutcher (2007): "Signals and Spillover: Brown v. Board of Education and Other Social Movements," Perspectives on Politics 5: 81-94.

October 27

Pick any two readings:

Markoff, John (1997): "Peasants Help Destroy and Old Regime and Defy a New One: Some Lessons from (and for) the Study of Social Movements," American Journal of Sociology 102: 1113-1142.

Soule, Sarah A. and Brayden King. 2006. "The Impact of Social Movements at Stages of the Policy Process: The Equal Rights Amendment, 1972-1982." American Journal of Sociology 111(6): 1871-1909.

Stearns, Linda Brewster & Paul D. Almeida (2004): "The Formation of State Actor-Social Movement Coalitions and Favorable Policy Outcomes," Social Problems 51: 478-504.

October 29

Midterm Examination – November 3

Evaluate it: Rumors of a Better World

Successes or Failures?! – [Group Assignments]

November 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24

Build It: Each one, Revolutionize one

Successes or Failures?! – [Group Assignments]

December 1, 3, 8, 10

Final Submission – During Examination Period (Change Something)