

People's Movements

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Course Description

In this course we will study People's Movements as they happened in history, as they are happening at present, and as they might happen in the future. For the future we will emphasize the importance of thinking local and global; thinking outside of the nation and the state. According to McAdam and Snow, "There are many definitions of social movements; most conceptual efforts include the following elements: (1) collective or joint action; (2) change-oriented goals; (3) some degree of organization; (4) some degree of temporal continuity; and (5) some extrainstitutional collective action, or at least a mixture of extrainstitutional (protesting in the streets) and institutional (political lobbying) activity. Blending these elements together, we *can define a social movement as a collectivity acting with some degree of organization and continuity outside of institutional channels for the purpose of promoting or resisting change in the group, society, or world order of which it is a part.*" (McAdam and Snow, *Social Movements*, page xviii.) As you read about people's movements please note whether this definition covers civil rights, student, women's, peace, anti-nuclear, environmental and other movements in our time.

Course Readings

I. Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: Harper Row Colophon 1980.

II. Printshop So/An 350 Packet. Read only four of the six articles- the Rucht and Zald & McCarthy articles are optional.

1. Guerin, Daniel *Anarchism* - pp. vii-xx

2. Morris & Herring. *Annual Review of Political Science Vol 2* pp 137-198 Theory and Research in social Movements

3. Kaufman, L.A. *Socialist Review* pp. 67-80: The Anti-Politics of Identity

4. Morris and Walljasper *The Utne Reader* Mar/April 1992: 4 stages of Environmentalism and Anti-Green Backlash

III. Hawkin, P. Socially Responsible Business. *Utne Reader* Sept/Oct 1993 pp.54-61

IV. EF Schuimacher Society Box 76, RD 3, Great Barrington MA 01230

Newsletter Spring 1994

Monterrey Common Cents March 1994

Land: Challenge and Opportunity Mar. 1993

V. *Co-op America* Quarterly Summer 1992 - Creating A Sustainable Society

VI. *Co-op America's National Green Pages* 1997 edition 1-800-58 GREEN or Co-op America 1612 K St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006. Fax: 202-331-8166.

VII. Glover, Paul. *Ithaca Hours*. Latest Issue. *Hometown money - How to enrich your community with local currency.*

VIII. Albert, Michael. *Stop The Killing Train*. South End Press.

Course Schedule

In this seminar be prepared to discuss the major ideas from each reading. Attendance at discussions will count for 10% of your grade.

Part I: A History of People's Movements

January 28 - April 8 (Spring Break March 22-30)

Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*

The week of Mar 4th each student will be responsible for a 3 page typewritten summary of the major ideas in chapters 1-1;3

of Zinn's People's History. For your own record It will be advisable to keep a 1 page summary each week which you can then condense into a 3 page summary to hand in the 5th week. Remember it is an art to be brief and yet quite complete!

Mar 11th: we will discuss Ch 14&15;

Mar 19: Ch 16&17;

April 1: Ch 18&19;

April 8: Ch 20&21;

The week of April 8th also read the Introduction to *Anarchism* by Noam Chomsky.

The week of April 8th hand in a 3 page typewritten summary of chapters 14-21 in Zinn. Include comments on Chomsky's introduction to *Anarchism*. Again keep a weekly summary for your own record to make this 4 week summary easier to write.

Optional reading for Part I:

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. *Poor People's Movements: why they succeed, how they fail*. New York: Random House Vintage Books 1977.

Goldberg, Robert A. *Grassroots Resistance: Social Movements in Twentieth Century America* Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company 1931.

Part II: Current People's Movements and how we study them:

April 15th: Printshop So/An 3 50 packet:

Morris & Herring, Kaufman and, Morris and Walljasper (see under Readings above for a more detailed description)

Take one social movement of your own choice - (civil rights, student, peace, women, environmental, abortion, ethnicity/identity) - from newspaper accounts, describe what is happening. Apply ideas from Morris & Herring, Kaufman and Morris&Walljasper. Be prepared to present your findings in class on the 15th.

Part III. Trends and Future Movements in America

April 22pd: Hawkin, P. Socially Responsible Business. *Utne Reader* Sept/Oct 1993 pp 54-61.

EF Schumacher Society: Newsletter Spring 1994

Monterrey Common Cents March 1994

Land: Challenge & Opportunity Mar'93

Co-op America Quarterly Summer '92 - Creating a Sustainable Society

April 29th: *Co-op America's National (Green Pages 1997 edition*

Hometown Money: How to enrich your community with local currency

May 6th & 13th: Albert, Michael. *Stop The Killing Train*. South End Press. Read Part II especially carefully!

In a final 3 or 4 page typewritten paper due May 13th suggest some ways in which social movements in general or the social movement you reported on April 15th might achieve more successful results.