Research on Social Movements and Political Parties

POLSCI 489: 003 – Advanced Topics in Political Science
ORGSTUDY 490: 001 – Advanced Research Team

University of Michigan
Fall 2013

Professor: Michael T. Heaney
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Day/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: 753 Dennison Building, 500 Church Street

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This research seminar investigates the intersecting organizational processes of social movements and political parties in the United States. It does so primarily through a focus on the relationship between the antiwar movement and the Democratic Party in the period after 9/11. Some consideration is also given to the interaction between the Republican Party and the Tea Party, the Democratic Party and Occupy Wall Street, and other party-movement pairs throughout history. This investigation centers on the professor’s book manuscript in progress, Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11. Students are expected to read and comment on the manuscript, as well as to conduct research aimed at bringing the manuscript to completion. This processes is intended both to deepen students’ knowledge of social movements and political parties, as well as their understanding of professional research in political science and organizational studies.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about social movements and political parties in the United States, how they interact with one another, and the effects that those interactions may have on political processes.

- Students will learn about the antiwar movement in the United States after 9/11 and how it is embedded in a larger historical context.

- Students will learn about the Republican Party, the Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street, and other social movements in the United States.

- Students will learn to apply the theories and ideas discussed in the course to contemporary political debates, such as the possibility of a US military strike against Syria.

- Students will deepen their understanding of common research methods in political science and organizational studies, such as surveys, interviews, content analysis, regression analysis, and social network analysis.

- Students will gain experience applying research methods, such as surveys, interviews, content analysis, and regression analysis.

- Students will deepen their experience working in collaborative settings.

- Students will learn to write about research for a broad audience.

- Students will practice giving professional research presentations.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

This course is an advanced undergraduate seminar with limited student enrollment. As such, a high degree of participation and engagement is required on the part of each student. Students are expected to participate in a professional manner. Students would be well advised to act as if they are participating in a job or an internship. For example, causal lateness or absence would not be tolerated in a work situation, so they should not be practiced by students in the class. As a rule of thumb, students should only miss class for the types of reasons for which they would legitimately miss work, such as illness, religious holidays, an important family event, a job interview, or other professional activity. In such cases, the student should notify the professor of the need to miss class with as much advance notice as possible.

Students are required to read *Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11*, which will be available for purchase at Dollar Bill Copying (611 Church St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104) after 10am on Saturday, September 7. The Introduction and Chapter 1, which is the reading assignment for Monday, September 9, is available on CTools in order to ensure that students have enough time to read the material. When a reading assignment is on the agenda for the class, students should (1) come
to class having completed the reading assignment; (2) be prepared to ask questions and make comments on the assignment; and (3) have a physical copy of the assigned reading with them for the purpose of reference. Students will write two short reaction papers to the book, which will be derived from class discussion. They are also required to submit a marked-up copy of the manuscript with their marginal edits and comments.

In weeks when reading assignments are not given – which will be the majority of the semester – students will work actively on research related to the book project. During these weeks, a substantial amount – if not all – class time will be allocated to working on the research. Students are advised to bring their own personal laptop computer to class on these days. If a student does not have a personal laptop computer, she/he should notify the professor, who will make arrangements for the student to borrow a university laptop during class time. During these weeks, students will be expected to work approximately six hours per week outside of class on research-related tasks. Such tasks may include data entry, transcribing interviews, conducting content analysis, online computer searches, and statistical analysis.

Toward the end of the semester, students will be assigned to a team for the purpose of producing a final research presentation to the class. These presentations will be given on the day and time of the final exam, which is Wednesday, December 18, 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Grades will be determined as follows:

1. **First Short Essay.** 15% of final grade. Distributed on Wednesday, September 18. **Due on CTools at 10am on Wednesday, September 25.**

2. **Second Short Essay.** 15% of final grade. Distributed on Wednesday, October 2. **Due on CTools at 10am on Wednesday, October 9.**

3. **Weekly Research Assignments.** 40% of final grade. Distributed and due on an ongoing basis all semester. Students will not receive grades on individual assignments. An overall grade will be assigned based on the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of the student’s work. Of these qualities, accuracy is the most important quality. Students are advised to complete their work slowly and carefully.

4. **Final Research Presentation.** 20% of final grade. Students present the results of their team project on Wednesday, December 18, 4:00pm-6:00pm.

5. **Class Participation.** 10% of final grade. Students will be graded on the quality, quantity, and respectfulness of their participation in class.

6. **Field Trip to Detroit on Sunday, September 8, 3pm-8pm.** 5% extra credit. Not required, but strongly recommended.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All students are required to abide by the academic honesty guidelines of the University of Michigan. Among other things, this means: (1) Students must submit only their own, original work in fulfillment of
course requirements; (2) Consulted works must be cited using an accepted documentation style; and (3) Students must provide truthful representations to the professor on issues such as reasons for missing class. The professor reserves the right to clarify how this policy applies on specific assignments prior to the commencement of those assignments. Students requiring additional clarification are strongly urged to consult with the professor before submitting questionable work. Violating this policy may cause a student to suffer severe grade penalties, failure of the class, academic probation, and/or expulsion.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please notify the professor at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you notify the professor of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; http://www.umich.edu/sswd) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

Course Schedule

1. Wednesday, September 4 – Introduction to the Course
2. Sunday, September 8 – Field Trip to Detroit
3. Monday, September 9 – Discuss Introduction and Chapter 1 of Party in the Street
4. Wednesday, September 11 – Discuss Chapters 2 and 3 of Party in the Street
5. Monday, September 16 – Discuss Chapter 4 of Party in the Street
6. Wednesday, September 18 – Discuss Chapter 5 of Party in the Street
7. Monday, September 23 – Discuss Chapter 6 of Party in the Street
8. Wednesday, September 25 – Discuss Chapter 7 of Party in the Street
9. Monday, September 30 – Discuss Chapter 8 and the Epilogue of Party in the Street
10. Wednesday, October 2 through Wednesday, December 11 – Research in class
11. Monday, October 7 – Guest Speaker, Susan Chilberg, Tea Party Patriots
12. Monday, November 11 – Screening of The Activists: War, Peace, and Politics in the Streets
13. Wednesday, December 18, 4:00pm-6:00pm – Final Research Presentations

Extra Credit Field Trip

The class will take a field trip to Detroit on Sunday, September 4 for the purpose of conducting surveys at an antiwar rally. We will depart from outside the Dennison Building (500 Church Street) at 3pm and will return to Ann Arbor by 8pm (if not earlier). This trip is not required. However, it is extraordinarily strongly recommended. Participating in the trip will greatly strengthen the extent to which students understand the research.