

International Activism, POSC 372

Prof. Jessica Green

Spring 2014

MWF 11.30-12.20

(as of 10 January 2014; I reserve the right to amend the readings)

Mather 315

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Overview

This course examines the role of non-state actors, and particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in world politics. We will begin with a survey of traditional theoretical approaches to international relations, so that students can be conversant in the basic theory and vocabulary of the discipline. We then examine the growing role of NGOs in world politics amidst the broader trend of globalization, and the academic and policy debates surrounding each. After this primer, the course will examine four “big questions” with respect to international activism: 1) When do NGOs mobilize? 2) What tactics do they use? 3) What explains success and failure in advocacy? 4) What are the broader political implications of a global class of elite advocates?

Textbooks

Ahmed, Shamima and David Potter. 2006. *NGOs in International Politics*. Kumarian Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Both are available at the bookstore, but you are welcome to buy them used elsewhere.

Other readings are either available on BB (these are denoted **on BB** in the syllabus) or electronically through KSL.

Course Requirements

The course will be largely discussion-based, with short lectures as needed to give the necessary background. Students will be responsible for presenting the readings on the syllabus and preparing discussion questions twice per semester (depending on the number of students in the class). Readings to be presented by students are indicated by *SP* on the syllabus. ***On the days you present, you are responsible for circulating 2-4 discussion questions via BB by 5PM the day before class.***

In addition to presenting the readings (which will count toward your participation grade), there will be three additional assignments:

- 1) NGO / Social movement report. This will be a report on the NGO or social movement of your choice. The paper should be approximately 3000 words and answer the following questions. 1) What does the activist organization do? 2) How is it structured and governed? 3) What are the main issues it

- works on? 4) What is their most successful work (in your estimation) and why? 5) What factors do you think contributed to this success and why? Students will give preliminary presentations midway through the semester to both present cases of advocacy to the class, and to help refine the answers to the questions posted above. There will be three interim assignments to keep you on track. Those are described in a separate document on BB, but due dates are noted below.
- 2) Summaries of readings. For the two readings that you present in class, you are also responsible for writing a 1-2 page summary of the reading. This is due to me by email before class starts.
 - 3) Midterm exam
 - 4) Final exam

Attendance & Participation

You are expected to participate in discussions, and this will be **significant** part of your final grade (see below). Simply sitting in the class sessions will not earn you full marks on participation; coming to class with questions and comments will. I will take attendance on an unannounced basis. You will be granted one “freebie”—a class you may miss without penalty. Thereafter, each absence will result in a reduction in your participation grade. If for some reason, you have to come late to class or leave early, it is courteous to let me know beforehand.

Grading

Participation (including presentations of readings): 20%
NGO report: 30%
Summaries of readings: 20%
Midterm: 15%
Final: 15%

Legal

1. **All deadlines are final.** For each day an assignment is late, a half grade will be deducted. This means if an A- paper is one day late, it will be a B+. If a B paper is two days late, it will be a C. THE ONLY exception to this rule is if you have a note from the Dean. Unless you have a note from the Dean, no extensions will be granted.
2. An unexcused absence for an exam will result in a failing grade for that exam.
3. I reserve the right to consider extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
4. Re-grade requests for exams will be honored only if accompanied by a comprehensive written explanation of why you deserve a higher grade. Note that if accepted, a request for re-grading may result in the raising *or lowering* of your grade.

Plagiarism

Please read the policy on academic honesty and plagiarism
(<http://students.case.edu/handbook/policy/integrity.html>)

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating on examinations, etc.) **is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university.** All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The Case handbook defines plagiarism as follows: “Plagiarism includes the presentation, without proper attribution, of another's words or ideas from printed or electronic sources. It is also plagiarism to submit, without the instructor's consent, an assignment in one class previously submitted in another.”

If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, PLEASE ASK ME! I also recommend the website www.plagiarism.org.

Other Class Policies

1. Please save paper; **submit everything to me electronically.**
2. **Please PUT YOUR CELL PHONES AWAY. TEXTING IS NOT PERMITTED.** If I observe you texting, you will be considered absent for that class session.
3. Unless you have permission from ESS, **laptops are not permitted.** (The exception is the days that you will be working on projects.)
4. During the semester I am prepared to meet by appointment with any and all students enrolled in this course. I would like especially to meet with students with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and who may need individual arrangements.

Week 1: Non-state actors in world politics

Jan 13: Introduction and Overview. Sign up for your discussion days.

Jan 15: Power in a globalized world.

- Keohane, Robert O., and Joseph S. Nye Jr. 2000. Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?). *Foreign Policy* (118): 104–119. **On BB. SP**

Jan 17: Non-state actors in a globalized world.

- Risse-Kappen, Thomas. 1995. *Bringing transnational relations back in: non-state actors, domestic structures, and international institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chap 1. **On BB. SP**

Week 2: What are NGOs?

Jan 20: NO CLASS, MLK Day (an activist success story!)

Jan 22: What are NGOs? Ahmed and Potter Chaps 2-3

Jan 24: What do NGOs *do*? Ahmed and Potter 4-5. We will take some of class to discuss your final projects.

Week 3: What are TANs?

Jan 27: What are TANs?

- Clark, John. 2003. "Introduction: Civil Society and Transnational Action" In *Globalizing Civic Engagement*. London: Earthscan **On BB. SP**
- Tarrow, Sidney. 2006. *The New Transnational Activism*, Chap 3. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **On BB. SP**

Jan 29: What do TANs *do*?

- Khagram, Sanjeev, James V Riker, and Kathryn Sikkink. 2002. *Restructuring world politics: transnational social movements, networks, and norms*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 1. **On BB. SP**

Jan 31: What do TANs *do*?

- Khagram, Sanjeev. 2002. "Restructuring the Global Politics of Development: The Case of India's Narmada Valley Dams," in Sanjeev Khagram, in *Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks and Norms*. Chap 10. **On BB. SP**

Week 4: What are social movements?

Feb 3: What are social movements? Tarrow, Power in movement, Intro, Chaps 1&2

Feb 5: What do social movements *do*? Tarrow, Chap 5 **SP**

Feb 7: What do social movements *do*? Tarrow, Chap 6, 7 OR 8. (Read ONE of these chapters.)

****Project assignment #1 due****

Week 5: Activist campaigns, part 1: Conflict and development (successes)

What factors contribute to the successes of these various campaigns?

Feb 10: Landmines

- Price, Richard. 199. Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines, *International Organization* 52 (3), 613-44. **SP**

Feb 12: Conflict diamonds

- Haufler, Virginia. 2009. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme: An Innovation in Global Governance and Conflict Prevention. *Journal of Business Ethics* 89 (4): 403-416. **SP**

Feb 14: Debt

- Busby, Joshua W. 2010. *Moral movements and foreign policy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chap 3. **Available through KSL as an e-book. SP**

Week 6: Activist Campaigns, Part 2: Human Rights

Feb 17: Human rights networks

- Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Excerpts of chap 1 and Chap 3. **On BB. SP**

Feb 19: Children of war

- Carpenter, R. Charli. 2007. Studying Issue (Non)-Adoption in Transnational Advocacy Networks. *International Organization* 61 (03): 643-667. **SP**

Feb 21: Female Genital Mutilation

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/world/africa/movement-to-end-genital-cutting-spreads-in-senegal.html?pagewanted=1>

- <http://www.polisci.ucsd.edu/~gmackie/page5.html>

Week 7: Activist Campaigns, Part 3: Globalization

Feb 24: World Social Forum

- Smith, Jackie et. al. 2012. *Handbook on World Social Forum Activism*. Paradigm Publishers. Introduction. **On BB.**

Feb 26: Battle of Seattle / WTO protests

- "Globalizing Resistance: The Battle of Seattle and the Future of Social Movements." *Mobilization* 6:1-20. **SP**
- David Graeber on the anti-globalization movement:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100130062023/http://newleftreview.org/A2368>.

Feb 28: Occupy

- Smith, Jackie. 2012. Connecting Social Movements and Political Movements. *Interface* 4(2): 369-82. <http://www.interfacejournal.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Interface-4-2-Smith.pdf>. **SP**
- Smith Jackie and Patrick Rafail. 2012. Media Attention and the Political Impacts of Occupy. <https://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/05/08-8>.

Week 8: Tactics

Mar 3: VIDEO

Mar 5: Discussion of video / Midterm review

Mar 7: MIDTERM

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Professionalization

Mar 17: Bush, Sarah. "The Power of Professionalization" Working paper. **SP**

Mar 19: Wong, Wendy. 2012. *Internal Affairs*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chaps 2-3. **On BB. SP**

Mar 21: Preliminary Presentations / Project discussion

****Project assignment #2 due****

Week 11: Activism in the global south

Mar 24: Who participates?

- Jackie Smith and Dawn R. Wiest. 2005. "The Uneven Geography of Global Civil Society: National and Global Influences on Transnational Association" *Social Forces* 84(2):621-652 **SP**

Mar 26: TBA

Mar 28: NO CLASS

Week 12: Internet Activism

Mar 31 Internet activism.

- Wong, Wendy H. and Peter Brown. 2013. E-Bandits in Global Activism. *Perspectives on Politics* 11(4): 1015-1033. **SP**

Apr 2 Internet activism, part 2.

- Kalathil, Shanthi and Taylor Boas. 2003. *Open Networks, Closed Regimes*. Carnegie Endowment. Chaps 1-2. **On BB**. (Note the whole book is on BB; you need only read the first two chapters.) **SP**
- Gladwell, Malcolm. 2010. "Why the revolution will not be tweeted". http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/04/101004fa_fact_gladwell?currentPage=all#ixzz10IW1STHe.

Apr 4: Internet activism and the Arab spring.

- Mona Ghobashy, *The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution*, http://www.merip.org/mer/mer258/praxis-egyptian-revolution?ip_login_no_cache=6039edb96e998d0538086acd01b38d45 (you must be on campus or have a VPN connection)

****Project Assignment #3 due****

Week 13: Legitimacy and Accountability

Apr 7: Understanding accountability

- Grant, Ruth W, and Robert O Keohane. 2005. Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics. *American Political Science Review* 99 (1): 29–43. **SP**

Apr 9: Accountability in a network

- Jordan, Lisa, and Peter Van Tuijl. 2000. Political Responsibility in Transnational NGO Advocacy. *World Development* 28 (12): 2051–2065. **SP**

Apr 11: Work on and discuss projects

Week 14: Accountability, part 2

Apr 14: NGO accountability

- Edwards, Michael, and David Hulme, eds. 1996. *Beyond the Magic Bullet: NGO Performance and Accountability in the Post- Cold War World*. West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press. **On BB**

Apr 16: Gourevitch, Peter A. et al. 2012. Chapter 1 in *The Credibility of Transnational NGOs*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **On BB. SP**

Apr 18: Program evaluation.

- http://www.oneworldtrust.org/publications/cat_view/98-tools-and-working-kits-for-ngos.
- <http://pqdl.care.org/Practice/Baseline%20Guidelines.pdf> (you can skim this)
- Additional reading by Simon Zadek

Week 15: Presentations and review

Week 16: Wrap up