International Activism, POSC 372  
Prof. Jessica Green  
Spring 2014  
MWF 11.30-12.20  
Mather 315  
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(as of 10 January 2014; I reserve the right to amend the readings)

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.


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](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.

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

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?

Jan 29: What do TANs do?

Jan 31: What do TANs do?

**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

Feb 12: Conflict diamonds

Feb 14: Debt

**Week 6: Activist Campaigns, Part 2: Human Rights**
Feb 17: Human rights networks

Feb 19: Children of war

Feb 21: Female Genital Mutilation
Week 7: Activist Campaigns, Part 3: Globalization
Feb 24: World Social Forum
Feb 26: Battle of Seattle / WTO protests
Feb 28: Occupy

Week 8: Tactics
Mar 3: VIDEO
Mar 5: Discussion of video / Midterm review
Mar 7: MIDTERM

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Professionalization
Mar 21: Preliminary Presentations / Project discussion
**Project assignment #2 due**

Week 11: Activism in the global south
Mar 24: Who participates?
Mar 26: TBA
Mar 28: NO CLASS

Week 12: Internet Activism
Mar 31 Internet activism.
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

Apr 4: Internet activism and the Arab spring.
  • Mona Ghabashy, 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

Apr 9: Accountability in a network

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 18: Program evaluation.
  • 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