

AAAS 385H SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN EAST ASIA

Binghamton University,

Fall 2008

T/Th 2:50-4:15

SL 310

Office hours: Thu 1-2pm

or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to explore various manifestations of social movements in Asia. The vibrancy of social movements (or civil society) is considered to be one of the key indicators of a well-functioning democratic system as well as one of the central forces for the transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. In this class, students will be exposed to both the theoretical and empirical analyses of social movements. We will first learn and discuss social movement theories that examine the rise, success, and outcomes of social movements. Second, we will take these theoretical lenses to examine social movements in Asia focusing on what role they play in transforming authoritarian governments and how they contribute to the expansion and deepening of democratic spheres. To address various questions pertaining to social movements in Asia, this class will incorporate a variety of learning methods including readings, discussions, and in-class exercises on social movements.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required books

Della Porta and Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction* (2nd edition, 2005)

Perry and Selden (eds), *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict, and Resistance* (2nd edition, 2003)

Other readings are available on Blackboard (Course Reserves)

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. ***Attendance and informed participation (10%)***: Do the assigned readings, come to class, participate in class discussion, and ask questions. In each class, a couple of students will be randomly called from a stack of cards written with student names and asked questions related

to the assigned readings. Student responses will be marked on the back of the cards and later will be calculated to students' participation grade.

2. **Comments and discussion questions (10%):** Each student signs up for one session and prepares a short response memo (one page) and discussion questions (at least three) on the assigned readings. Both the response memo and discussion questions should be posted on Blackboard 24 hours before the class.

3. **Presentation & outline (20%):** Each student presents their final project which can be

(1) An interview with a social movement activist, or

(2) A report on a social movement (organization)

A written outline (2-3 pages) should be submitted on the day of presentation.

4. **Two exams (40%):** There will be two exams to evaluate students' understanding of the key concepts and arguments discussed in lectures and assigned readings.

Exam 1 (in-class) on **Feb 26**, Exam 2 (take-home) on **May 1**

5. **Final report (20%):** The final project is a full report of the topic that each student surveyed for their presentation. The final report should incorporate the theoretical and empirical discussions carried out in class throughout the semester. The report should be 7-8 pages (font 12, double-spaced) and submitted on **May 8**.

OTHER ACADEMIC RULES & ETHICS

Plagiarism (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/instruct/plagfaculty.htm>)

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another person as one's own work (including papers, words, ideas, information, computer code, data, evidence organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else taken from the internet, books, periodicals, or other sources).

→Any detection of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and a report to the University administration

Absence: Regular attendance is a must for this class. If students have inevitable reasons for their absence, they have to inform the professor in advance.

Incomplete: No incomplete will be granted in this course unless the student provides evidence of emergencies such as medical treatment or family bereavement.

Laptops in classroom: Laptops can be used in class but no web browsing is allowed. If it is

found, points will be deducted from class attendance and participation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 29: Introduction and overview of the course

Jan 31: **What are social movements?**

® Della Porta and Diani p.1-29

® Tarrow, “Contentious politics and social movements” in *Power in Movement* p.10-25

Feb 5: **Social changes and social movements**

® Della Porta and Diani p.33-63

Feb 7: **The political and cultural dimensions of social movements**

® Della Porta and Diani p.64-88 and 201-205

Feb 12: **The logic of collective action**

® Olson, “A theory of groups and organization” in *The Logic of Collective Action* p.5-52

Feb 14: **Movement activists and organizations**

® Della Porta and Diani p.114-121 and 135-144

® Meyer, “Becoming an Activist” in *The Politics of Protest* p. 44-59

Feb 19: **Collective action and identity**

® Della Porta and Diani p.89-113

Feb 21: **Social movements and democracy**

® Della Porta and Diani p.223-249

Feb 26: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Feb 28: **Social movements in Japan**

® Pekkanen, “Japan’s Civil Society...” in *Japan’s Dual Civil Society* p.27-46

Mar 4: **Social movements in Japan**

® Avenell, “Regional egoism as the public good” p.89-113

Mar 6: **Social movements in Japan**

® Eto, “Women’s movements in Japan” p.311-333

® Mori, “Culture=politics...” p.17-29

Mar 11: **Social movements in Japan**

® Stewart, “Marginal movements and minority struggles” p.753-773

® Strausz, “Minorities and protest in Japan” p.641-656

Mar 13: ■ Presentation

Mar 18: **Social movements in Korea**

® Kim, “Civil Society in the third...” in *The Politics of Democratization in Korea* p.77-104

Mar 20: **Social movements in Korea**

® Shin, “The citizens’ movement in Korea” p.5-34

Mar 25-27: NO CLASS

Apr 1: **Social movements in Korea**

® Kim, “Democratization and environmentalism” p.287-302

® Wong, “Adapting to democracy” p.88-111

Apr 3: **Social movements in Korea**

Watch a film

Apr 8: **Social movements in Korea**

® Jones, “Assessing cultural change and theoretical lessons” in *Gender and the Political Opportunities of Democratization in South Korea* p.215-241

Apr 10: ■ Presentation

Apr 15: **Social movements in China**

® Perry and Selden, “Reform and resistance in contemporary China” in *Chinese Society* p.1-22

Apr 17: **Social movements in China**

® Lee, “Pathways of labor insurgency” in *Chinese Society* p.71-92

® Zweig, “To the courts or the barricades” in *Chinese Society* p.113-135

Apr 22: **Social movements in China**

® Zhao “State-society relations and the discourses and activities...” p.1592-1632

® Xu “Farewell to idealism” p. 779-799

Apr 24: **Social movements in China**

® Jing “Environmental protests in rural China” in *Chinese Society* p.204-222

® Thorton, “The new cybersects” in *Chinese Society* p.247-270

Apr 29: ■ Presentation

May 1: **FINAL EXAM**

May 6: Presentation

May 8: **Wrap-up/FINAL REPORT due**