Course Description
This course will focus on four broad social movements in post-war America: the movement for African-American Civil Rights; the Conservative Movement; the Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Movement; and the Consumer Movement. There are two objectives for this course: first, to introduce and familiarize students with these four social movements that span post-war American history, putting each in its historical context; second, to use these movements to illustrate the variety of tactics and strategies employed by advocates to advance social change including boycotts, legislation, regulatory action, electoral politics, marches, and voter referenda.

Grading
40% of the grade for the course will be based on quizzes on the assigned reading given each Thursday; 10% on class participation; 50% of the course grade will be based on a 5 page paper and presentation that contains a recommendation for action to an actual social movement organization. Drawing on the four social movements studied, students will identify a policy problem and then advocate for a tactic that will advance social change. Half of the grade for this project will be based on the paper itself and half on the quality of a presentation made to the class during the last week of the semester. An outline of your proposal will be due by March 10th, the last class before Spring break.
Course Books:

Rules for Radicals, Saul Alinsky

Whatever it Takes: Geoffrey Canada’s Quest to Change Harlem and America, Paul Tough

Give Us Liberty, A Tea Party Manifesto, Dick Armey & Matt Kibbe

The Mayor of Castro Street, Randy Shilts

Omnivore’s Dilemma, Michael Pollan

Course Films & Videos:

Eyes on the Prize, America’s Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1985
Blackside, 1987

Waiting for Superman
Paramount Vantage, 2010

Tea Party: The Documentary Film
Ground Floor Video, 2010

The Times of Harvey Milk
Black Sand Productions, 1985

Food, Inc
Magnolia Pictures, 2009

Introduction

January 25
Outline of the course, review of the syllabus and definition of what constitutes a social movement
Assigned Reading: Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, Chapters “Prologue” and “The Purpose”
January 27  
**General Principles**  
Assigned Reading: Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*, Chapters “Word about Words” and “Education of an Organizer”

**The African-American Civil Rights Movement**

February 1  
**Introduction to the African American civil rights movement**  

February 3  
**Boycotts**  
Assigned Reading, Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters, America During the King Years*, pages 156 – 203

February 8  
**Marches and mass demonstrations**  

**Charter School Movement**

February 10  
**How charter schools work**  
Assigned Reading: *Whatever It Takes*, Paul Tough, Chapters 1 & 5

February 15  
**The connection between charter schools and civil rights**  
Assigned Reading: *Whatever It Takes*, Paul Tough, Chapters 2 & 4  
Assigned Viewing: *Waiting for Superman*

February 17
Guest lecturer: Harold Ford, Jr., former Democratic Congressman who has supported charter schools
Assigned Reading: Whatever It Takes, Paul Tough, Chapters 8 & 9

The Conservative Movement

February 22
Introduction to the Conservative movement
Assigned Reading: The Road to Serfdom, F. A. Hayek, Introduction
Assigned Viewing: Free to Choose, Volume 1

February 24
Campus activism
Assigned Reading: William F. Buckley, God & Man at Yale, “The Revolt Against the Establishment”, Introduction, Foreword, Preface & Chapter 1 through page 17

February 2011 is the Centenary of Ronald Reagan’s Birth

Tea Party Movement

March 1
Where did the Tea Party Movement come from?
Assigned Reading: Tea Party Manifesto, Armey and Kibbe, Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2; Assigned Viewing: Free to Choose, Volume 7

March 3
What does the Tea Party Movement stand for?
Assigned Reading: Tea Party Manifesto, Armey and Kibbe, Chapters 3 & 4 “Tea Party Lights Fuse for Rebellion on Right”, NYT 2/15/10 by David Barstow

March 8
Tea Party Tactics
Assigned Reading: Tea Party Manifesto, Armey and Kibbe, Appendix 1-5; Assigned Viewing: “Tea Party: The Documentary Film”

March 10
Guest lecturer: Kevin Williamson, Deputy Managing Editor of the National Review Magazine
Outlines for final project due
Assigned Reading: Tea Party Manifesto, Armey and Kibbe, Appendix 6-9

The Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Movement

March 22
*Introduction to the Gay & Lesbian civil rights movement*
Assigned Reading: Randy Shilts, The Mayor of Castro Street, Part I

March 24
*Campaigning for office*
Assigned Reading: Randy Shilts, The Mayor of Castro Street, Part II

March 29
*Ballot referenda*
Assigned Reading: Randy Shilts, The Mayor of Castro Street, Parts III & IV
Assigned Viewing: The Times of Harvey Milk, 1984 documentary film

AIDS Activism

March 31
*The AIDS crisis of the 1980’s*
Assigned Reading: Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On, Part IV “The Gathering Darkness”

April 5
*The connection between AIDS and Gay & Lesbian civil rights*
Assigned Reading: Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On

2011 marks the 30th Anniversary of the First AIDS Death in NYC

April 7
*Guest lecturer: David Mixner, long-time gay-rights activist*
Assigned Reading, David Mixner, Stranger Among Friends, Chapter 9, “The Nightmare Begins”

The Consumer Movement

April 12
*Introduction to the consumer movement*
Assigned Reading, Jacob Riis, How the Other Half Lives, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 5. Visit to the Tenement Museum in the Lower East Side; leave from 25 West 4th Street at 4:55 or meet at the museum at 108 Orchard Street by 5:30. Note: cost of admission to the Museum is $15.

April 14
*Telling the story – journalism & muckraking*
Assigned Reading, Upton Sinclair, The Jungle, Introduction, Chapters 11, 12

April 19
*Regulation and the power of the federal government*

Food Consciousness

April 21
*Rationale & emergence of food consciousness*
Assigned Reading: Michael Pollan, Omnivore’s Dilemma, Introduction, Chapters 8 -10

Earth Day – April 22

April 26
*The consumer movement, food consciousness and environmentalism*

April 28
*Guest Lecture: Jonathan Safran Foer, author of the book, Eating Animals*
Assigned Reading: Jonathan Safran Foer, Eating Animals, chapter entitled “Hiding / Seeking”

Student presentations

May 3 – Final presentations

May 5 – Final presentations