

# Research Seminar on Social Movements & Political Parties: The Grassroots Politics of the Trump Era

ORGSTUDY 490

University of Michigan  
Fall 2017

Professor: Michael T. Heaney  
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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12:00pm; and by appointment  
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Class Day/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:40pm-4:00pm  
Location: 6530 Haven Hall

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the present political moment in the United States and how citizens are responding to it at the grassroots level. We will talk about grievances of citizens from all sides of the political spectrum, how they manifested into partisan polarization, and how they have (and may) shape electoral outcomes. We will consider the formation of grassroots organizations, online political activism, and the emergence of incivility and violence at protests. The course will be split roughly in half between seminar-style discussions and hands-on research on grassroots protest.

**REQUIRED BOOKS** (Please purchase from Amazon or other online bookseller. They are also on reserve at the Shapiro Undergraduate library, for your reference.)

Kathleen M. Blee. 2012. *Democracy in the Making: How Activist Groups Form*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. Purchase from Amazon:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Democracy-Making-Activist-Studies-Politics/dp/0190221763/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716204&sr=8-1&keywords=democracy+in+the+making](https://www.amazon.com/Democracy-Making-Activist-Studies-Politics/dp/0190221763/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716204&sr=8-1&keywords=democracy+in+the+making)

Katherine J. Cramer. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Purchase from Amazon:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Politics-Resentment-Consciousness-Wisconsin-American/dp/022634911X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716149&sr=8-1&keywords=politics+of+resentment](https://www.amazon.com/Politics-Resentment-Consciousness-Wisconsin-American/dp/022634911X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716149&sr=8-1&keywords=politics+of+resentment)

Angela Y. Davis. 2016. *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*. Chicago: Haymarket Books. Purchase from Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/Freedom-Constant-Struggle-Palestine-Foundations/dp/1608465640/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1504720578&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Freedom-Constant-Struggle-Palestine-Foundations/dp/1608465640/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1504720578&sr=1-1)

Jason Gainous and Kevin M. Wagner. 2014. *Tweeting to Power: The Social Media Revolution in American Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press. Purchase from Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Tweeting-Power-Revolution-American-Politics/dp/0199965099>

Jonathan Matthew Smucker. 2017. *Hegemony How-To: A Roadmap for Radicals* (Chico, CA: AL Press). Purchase from Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/Hegemony-How-Radicals-Jonathan-Smucker/dp/1849352542/ref=sr\\_1\\_sc\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716278&sr=8-1-spell&keywords=hegeomony+how+to](https://www.amazon.com/Hegemony-How-Radicals-Jonathan-Smucker/dp/1849352542/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504716278&sr=8-1-spell&keywords=hegeomony+how+to)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Each of these elements will be weighted as follows in determining final grades:

- Attendance – 15% of final grade.
- Participation – 15% of final grade. Students are expected to read assigned readings prior to the class in which they are to be discussed. Strong participation is indicated by bringing questions and comments about the readings to the discussions.
- Two Reaction Papers – 30% of final grade
- Final Team Presentation of Research – 40% of final grade

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Students will strengthen their ability to analyze the current political context in the United States.
- Students will learn about the efforts of ordinary people to organize in response to the current political situation in the United States.
- Students will learn about how political parties and social movements create competing pressures on citizens to participate (or not) in political activities.
- Students will learn about formulating research questions, stating hypotheses, and designing research.
- Students will learn about the practice of survey research.
- Students will learn how to construct, clean, code, and analyze survey data.
- Students will strengthen their ability to write about and present research.

## 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 OUTLINE

Wednesday, September 6 – Introduction to the Course

Monday, September 11 – Seminar on the 2016 Presidential Election

- “Recap of 2016 Presidential Election Forecasts”, *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2017), available on Canvas under Readings.
- J. Eric Oliver and Wendy M. Rahn. 2016. “Rise of the Trumpenvolk: Populism in the 2016 Election.” *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 667(1): 189-206, available on Canvas under Readings.

Wednesday, September 13 – Introduction to Survey Research

- Review survey instruments available on Canvas

Monday, September 18 – Seminar on *Democracy in the Making*, Chapters 1-3

Wednesday, September 20 – Research in Class

Monday, September 25 – Seminar on *Democracy in the Making*, Chapters 4-6

Wednesday, September 27 – Research in Class

Monday, October 2 – Seminar on *Hegemony How-to*, Chapters 1-3

- **Prompt for first reaction paper distributed in class.**

Wednesday, October 4 – Research in Class

Monday, October 9 – Seminar on *Hegemony How-to*, Chapters 4-6

Wednesday, October 11 – Research in Class

Monday, October 16 – **NO CLASS FOR FALL BREAK**

Wednesday, October 18 – Research in Class

Monday, October 23 – Seminar on *Hegemony How-to*, Chapters 7-8

Wednesday, October 25 – Research in Class

- **First reaction paper due in class.**

Monday, October 30 – Seminar on *The Politics of Resentment*, Chapters 1-4

Wednesday, November 1 – Research in Class

Monday, November 6 – Seminar on *The Politics of Resentment*, Chapters 5-8

Wednesday, November 8 – Research in Class

Monday, November 13 – Seminar on *Tweeting to Power*, Chapters 1-5

Wednesday, November 15 – Research in Class

Monday, November 20 – Seminar on *Tweeting to Power*, Chapters 6-10

Wednesday, November 22 – Research in Class

Monday, November 27 – Seminar on *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, Chapters 1-5

- **Prompt for second reaction paper distributed in class.**

Wednesday, November 29 – Research in Class

Monday, December 4 – Seminar on *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, Chapters 6--10

Wednesday, December 6 – Research in Class

Monday, December 11 – Research in Class

- **Second reaction paper due in class.**

Tuesday, December 19, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – **Final Presentations**