This course will investigate conceptualizations of power, spatialities, and collectivities in theories of social movement and protest, with an emphasis on Marxist, post-marxist & post-structural, and postcolonial perspectives that have been influential within critical geography.

This course has three aims:

- To survey perspectives on social movements and protest, especially those that have been influential within critical geography, including (but not limited to) hegemony, radical democracy, resistance, contentious politics, and framing theory;
- To become acquainted with critical debates around power and spatialities within these perspectives, and their relation to theoretical terms/fields such as hegemony, alliance politics, and radical democracy; and
- To consider how theories of social movements, protest, and the political have their own geographies (their own conceptual maps, as well as their particular geographies of emergence), and how these shape their production, reception, and translation in activist and academic practice.

To achieve these aims, we will read both recent scholarship in geographies of social movements (or contentious politics, or resistance, or...) as well as foundational texts from Gramsci, Foucault, Laclau & Mouffe, etc. Critical points of debate include the meaning and significance of ‘class’ and ‘the economy’ in politics; the relations between social movements and the state; understandings of social movements through the notion of representation vs. constitution, ideology vs. culture, discourse vs. framing; and ways of thinking about identity, collectivities, and agency.

This course is a seminar: Graduate students will be expected to read thoughtfully, deepen their engagement with the literatures through responsive writing and discussion, and build their own critical perspectives on the theories addressed. Assessment will stress preparation for class, participation in discussion, and engagement as made evident in written and oral practice. Students will write not only critical response pieces throughout the semester, but also work on longer essays using the course material to advance their own research.

READINGS will be available online, at electronic course reserve, on the course D2L site, and/or online. You should purchase the two books from which large portions are excerpted, An Antonio Gramsci Reader and On Populist Reason. I strongly recommend printing the readings, as you will need them in class discussion, and underlining on the page is a useful practice. If you really prefer to use a digital copy only, you must download and save it to your device for easy access in class (do not depend on an internet connection in class, and time spent online in class will detract from your engagement during our face-to-face time).
Your work in this course will be assessed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Learning Goals</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
<th>Grading basis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response papers (10 papers @ 1 p each)</td>
<td>Develop critical understanding of concepts and methods in poststructuralist &amp; critical geography through independent reading and writing</td>
<td>10 papers @ 2% each for a total of 20%</td>
<td>Out of 2 points (2= meets at least 80% of criteria; 1= meets &lt;80% of criteria; 0=not submitted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation, including leading class discussion for 2 sessions</td>
<td>Develop facility and self-confidence in scholarly debate and engagement with peers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper: DRAFT</td>
<td>Develop scholarly writing skills, including working with critique</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Out of 5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper: PEER REVIEW</td>
<td>Develop scholarly engagement through reading, develop familiarity with critical review processes</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Out of 5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper(s): FINAL version</td>
<td>Demonstrate ability to synthesize insights from materials covered in class and identify new research questions relevant to the themes of discussion in this course; Develop independent research skills and deep engagement with an case study or area of theoretical inquiry; Demonstrate writing and analytical skills appropriate to graduate level</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Letter</td>
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All UWM course policies apply; please be familiar with the following:
Student Rights & Responsibilities: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

For scholars, academic integrity is of the utmost importance, and you should conduct your scholarly practice in such a way as to acknowledge the intellectual labor of others. For the relevant UWM policy, see http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm

Please check your university email regularly for occasional class announcements; such announcements will also be posted on the course D2L page. In case of an H1N1 outbreak, severe weather events, or other disruptive large-scale phenomena, alternative arrangements will be made for class and a new syllabus will be distributed to organize the completion of remaining assessed work.

To request an office appointment or ask a quick question by email, always include “GEOG 905” in the subject header to Kristin <sziarto@uwm.edu>. I usually answer my e-mail within 48 hours.
RESPONSE PAPERS ASSIGNMENT

One of your tasks as a scholar is to develop your thinking, especially critical thinking. One of the most important ways to do this is through writing. This does NOT mean that you read a lot, think critically, then write about it. Rather, writing practice may actually start to tell you what you are thinking. To this end, in this course you will write at least 10 responses to the readings. You should write an approximately one-page, single-spaced piece in response to the assigned reading(s), and circulate it to the entire class via e-mail by 6 pm on the Tuesday before class.

I recommend you use this assignment to work toward several different goals:

✓ Establishing a habitual process of writing (as thinking)
✓ Developing your ability to respond critically to reading
  o grasping the arguments even as you subject them to critical scrutiny
  o relating them to other scholarly work
✓ Getting around writer’s block by free-writing before you are sure of your argument
✓ Developing arguments through responding to & revising your writing

What should you strive to do in these response pieces? You might, depending on the reading(s), focus on a particular term, and trace how the author develops her/his argument about that concept, OR how several authors use different conceptualizations of the same term (and think about which conceptualization works best for you). You might focus on grappling with one or two difficult concepts or passages by trying to summarize them, and relating them to the rest of the work. You might relate a reading to a previous week’s reading(s), by comparing and contrasting their approaches to a topic.

REMINDER: Response pieces are due to the course D2L Discussion page by Tuesday, 6 pm, to give everyone time to read them before Wednesday’s class. See the instructions on that page regarding how to post your response paper. Earlier is fine, too (perhaps Monday night would be good). If your work schedule makes this impossible in some way, talk with Kristin as soon as possible.

Resources on writing as thinking:
http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/summer/summer6
http://www.capella.edu/writingcenter/overview.aspx

LEADING DISCUSSION

You will work with one or more other classmates to facilitate discussion twice in the semester. This work will count as part of your participation grade. At the first class meeting you will sign up for your two sessions. How should you go about this? There are many ways to approach the readings, and your plans should take the nature of the readings, and the questions they raise, into consideration. Some readings will clearly lay out a theoretical approach (more or less clearly, which you may need to address). Some readings will obviously conflict with others. Some readings could work best when put into conversation with readings from previous weeks.

You should also consider the practicalities of the 4:30 – 7:10 pm time. It is unlikely that we will all be able to focus on one singular task for the entire class period.

I strongly recommend that you arrange to meet with your co-facilitators at least a day or two before class. Also consider arranging to meet with me. I will generally be available to meet Monday or Tuesday afternoons (please e-mail to make specific arrangements).
FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT

You should use this course, and especially the final paper assignment, to further your graduate research project in some way. You may be building your preliminary reading lists, or writing your thesis or final master’s paper, or writing your dissertation proposal, or writing an article….Therefore, I expect you to take one of these options for the final paper, and tailor it to your needs.

Option 1: A review of literature, 20-25 pages. If you are working toward your preliminary exams, or writing your thesis, this might be what you need most. A long review of literature, in which you explore and critique several themes in a literature, or use multiple literatures to set up a framework for research, is an important task early in any research project.

Option 2: An analytical essay or position paper, 20-25 pages. If you are working on a final master’s paper, or on an article to submit for publication, this might be the best choice. In this assignment you would explicate the relevant literature in a short review, then apply and/or critique that literature, possibly through the analysis of your research findings.

Option 3: Two essays exploring particular debates in the literatures addressed in the course, each 12 pages. This might be another good route if you are preparing for preliminary exams, and wish to explore (for example) debates around conceptualizations of ‘discourse,’ or delve deeper into debates around a particular spatiality…..

Option 4: A research proposal, 20-25 pages. Again, whether this option is appropriate depends on at what stage you are in your research project.

This assignment will proceed in several stages. First, by February 1st you should submit a proposal (1/2 to 1 page) for the paper(s) to Kristin via the D2L Dropbox. This part of the assignment is not for credit, but is crucial to your successful accomplishment of the later stages. Also, I recommend you discuss this assignment, and its role in furthering your academic project, with your adviser around the time you write the proposal.

Second, you will write a full draft of the paper(s) for Kristin and a peer to review. See the course calendar on the last page of the syllabus for due dates.

Third, you will review at least one classmate’s draft paper (details TBA, depending on topics). You will write up your constructive criticism, answering these questions: Is the argument clear? How can it be clarified? Is it developed throughout the paper, and in relation to research findings (depending on which kind of paper)? Are relevant literatures addressed? What is the paper’s intellectual contribution and significance, in terms of theory and/or empirical work? And so on. WHY are we doing peer reviewing? Because scholarship is a collective endeavor, involving conversations (proximate, or at a distance) and debates about knowledge production. Peer review is an important part of this endeavor.

The final version of the paper is due to Kristin’s mailbox (yes, hard copy, please) in the Geography department, 6th floor of the NW Quadrant. Details TBA.
Week 1: The spaces of theories, spatializing theory, and theorizing space

Social movements themselves have sparked changes in theorizing power, protest and the state. These altered trajectories in social theory are contingent in space and time…thus throughout the course we will consider the geographies of theory: Where have particular theoretical stances emerged, and why? What theories are developed in place through activist practice? On the other hand, even non-geographic social movement theories refer to or instantiate spatialities. These readings will serve as an introduction to these issues.

Required reading:

Suggested reading:
More on spatialities and/or geography:

More on left politics:

More on postcolonial approaches to theory:

Week 2: Gramsci...hegemony, ideologies, the state

The term ‘hegemony’ is used widely. But what does it mean? Many things. In this course the Marxist tradition of theorizing hegemony can be traced to Antonio Gramsci’s coining of the term. For this week we will read both Gramsci’s own writings on hegemony, and introductory material locating Gramsci in Mussolini’s Fascist Italy, as well as in the Marxist tradition itself. Questions to consider: What is the significance of Gramsci’s work to Marxist theories of social movements, esp. revolution? Why, according to Gramsci, did socialism fail and fascism prevail in Italy? What are the roles of class, capital, and culture in politics? What are Gramsci’s key terms of analysis, and how does he define them? And where is the geography?

Required reading:
Gramsci, Antonio. (2000), An Antonio Gramsci Reader: Forgacs, David (ed.). New York: NYU Press. pp. 189-269, 275-299, 10-13 (introductory material. Also see reference material pp. 14-25). You might also want to skim some of the introductory notes to the chapters (e.g. pp. 29-31, 53-55) to get a sense of the development of Gramsci’s politics. {Pages in older edition: pp. 189-269, 275-299, 11-25 (introductory material)}
Suggested:
Rosengarten, F. An Introduction to Gramsci’s Life and Thought. Available online at nationalgramsociety.org/about_gramsci/biography.html

An Antonio Gramsci Reader, pp. 29-52 (Socialism and Marxism 1917-1918)


Week 3: Hegemony theory applied

What, then, is to be done with hegemony theory? How can we put Gramsci’s thinking to work? Must Gramsci be cited for a piece to count as using hegemony theory? (Add your questions here.)

Required reading:


Suggested:


Week 4: Hegemony 2.0 by Laclau and Mouffe, aka radical democratic theory

In the wake of the New Social Movements of the 1960s and 1970s, a whole new set of theories arose to explain them. Perhaps the most contentious among these was the post-marxist work of Laclau and Mouffe, Hegemony and Socialist Strategy. Both Laclau and Mouffe continued to defend and develop their version of radical democratic theory in the following decades. We will read Laclau’s recent work, On Populist Reason, which lays out his theorization of the signifying process through which populist movements form.

Required reading:


Suggested:


**Week 5: Geographers and Laclau & Mouffe**

In 2002, early in my own PhD program, a senior graduate student said to me, “New social movement theory is really interesting, but you can’t really study anything with it.” What do you think?

**Required reading:**


**Suggested:**


**Week 6: Feminist approaches to identity, difference, and alliance**

The emergence of ‘second-wave’ feminism in the 1970s in many places in the world added yet another twist to the challenge of thinking about ‘new’ social movements. It also set off several debates on the left: Were feminists detracting from class struggles, even if they were socialist feminists? Were second-wave feminist politics heterosexual white women’s politics? These questions and responses to them—the rise of identity politics and attempts to work through that—led to the rise of attention to alliances, coalitions, etc. How do these approaches work? What is at stake? Are they complementary or hostile to poststructural approaches to politics, identity, and so on?

**Required reading:**


Week 7: Framing theory

How does framing theory conceptualize collective identity formation? How does this compare with 'discourse' conceptions? Why does the difference matter (what is at stake)? How do Martin and Kurtz put framing theory to work? What does it do for them? Why didn’t they use ‘discourse’? (or do they?)

Required reading:


Suggested:


**Week 8: Foucault— spatialities of discipline, governmentality & biopower**

Foucault’s theorization of power posed another enormous challenge to the Marxism of the 1960s and 1970s. Why? What do Foucault’s ideas of the modalities of power (disciplinary power, governmental power, and biopower) mean for theorizing hegemony?

**Required reading:**


**Suggested:**


**Week 9: Spring Break, no class on March 21.**

**Week 10: Foucault, resistance and its spatialities**

If power is everywhere, where are the spaces for resistance? How are they configured? How do they relate to spaces of hegemony?

**Required reading:**

Sziarto, GEOG 905, Spring 2012


Lee, J. (2009). FANY (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) 'Other Spaces': toward an application of Foucault's heterotopias as alternate spaces of social ordering. *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal Of Feminist Geography*, 16(6), 647-664.

**Suggested:**


**Week 11: Place**

Within geography, place was for a time neglected. Space, and for many critical geographers, capital's control of space, was the spatiality that commanded attention. Escobar (2001) mounted a strong challenge to such a view of space & place. How have theorizations of place and social movements developed since then? What is the significance of the urban (as a place) for social movements?

**Required reading:**


**Suggested:**


Week 12: Networks
By this week it should be clear that many geographers (and other social researchers) have moved toward thinking of networks as a crucial way of understanding spatialities of social movements, especially in relation to places. But what is a network? And what does it mean to conceptualize social movements in relation to some concept of a network?

Required reading:

Suggested:
(re: Are transnational networks a new phenomenon?)

Week 13: Public space, public sphere(s)
The 1989 publication of an English translation of Juergen Habermas’s *Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere (Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit, 1962)* prompted a welter of critical responses from Anglophone theorists. Why such attention, and why the furor? What is the public sphere, and what is its relation to public space? And what is the significance of both to social movements?

Required reading:

Suggested:

Sziarto, GEOG 905, Spring 2012

***Friday, April 22: DRAFT of paper due.***

**Week 14: Peer reviewing of papers**

Required reading: your peers' draft papers, as assigned.

**Week 15: Protest and the media? or geographies of democracy? Tbd…**

**Geographies of protest/dissent and the media:**

**Suggested reading:**

**Geographies of Democracy:**
Ranciere, Jacques. Selections from *Hatred of Democracy* and/or *Dissensus*.

**Week 16: TBD**

Possibilities include pieces on democracy and participation, something by Zizek, or discussion of a current movement in relation to the course material. AND/OR we could do another round of peer review.

We'll talk about it.

**Week 17: Final paper due May 14th, 4:30 pm, to my box in the Geography Department, 6th floor of the NW Quadrant.** If you miss this deadline, or if the Geography mail room is closed at that time, upload your final paper (as a pdf, please) to the D2L Dropbox…and then hand in a paper copy the next morning.

Sziarto, GEOG 905, Spring 2012
## COURSE CALENDAR, including related events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Leaders/facilitators</th>
<th>Due dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 25-Jan   | Introductions  
Theorizing spatialities, spatializing theories          | n/a                   |                                                                                               |
| 2    | 1-Feb    | Hegemony theory: Gramsci                                            |                       | PROPOSAL for paper(s) DUE to Dropbox by noon, February 1st                                    |
| 3    | 8-Feb    | Hegemony                                                            |                       |                                                                                               |
| 4    | 15-Feb   | Hegemony 2.0: Laclau & Mouffe                                       |                       |                                                                                               |
| 5    | 22-Feb   | Hegemony 2.0 continued                                              |                       |                                                                                               |
| 6    | 29-Feb   | Feminist alliance politics                                          |                       | (If you are doing the 2-paper option, full draft of paper #1 due to D2L Dropbox by midnight, Sunday, March 4th) |
| 7    | 7-Mar    | Framing theory                                                      |                       |                                                                                               |
| 8    | 14-Mar   | Foucault: spatialities of discipline and governmentality            |                       |                                                                                               |
| 9    | 21-Mar   | **Spring break, no class.**                                         | n/a                   |                                                                                               |
| 10   | 28-Mar   | Foucault: spatialities of resistance                                |                       | (If you are doing the 2-paper option, final version of paper #1 due to D2L Dropbox by midnight, Sunday, April 2nd) |
| 11   | 4-Apr    | Place                                                                |                       |                                                                                               |
| 12   | 11-Apr   | Networks                                                             |                       |                                                                                               |
|      |          | FILM: “Land,” at UWM Union, 7 pm                                    |                       |                                                                                               |
| 13   | 13-Apr   | C21 Symposium: Pre-Occupy (Curtin 118), 1:30 pm (see http://www4.uwm.edu/c21/pages/events/abstracts/12spring/preoccupy.html) |                       |                                                                                               |
| 13   | 13-Apr   | Meyer lecture: Jan Monk (AGSL), 2:30pm                               |                       |                                                                                               |
| 13   | 18-Apr   | Public space                                                        |                       | DRAFT of paper DUE to peer reviewer and Kristin by Sunday, April 22, midnight (email AND Dropbox) |
| 14   | 25-Apr   | Peer reviewing of papers - discussion                               | n/a                   |                                                                                               |
| 15   | 2-May    | Geographies of protest & media? Of democracy?                        |                       |                                                                                               |
| 16   | 3-5-May  | Conference: The Nonhuman Turn in Twenty-first Century Studies (see http://www4.uwm.edu/c21/pages/events/conferences.html) |                       |                                                                                               |
| 17   | 9-May    | TBA                                                                  |                       |                                                                                               |
|      | (17) 14-May | Final paper due to my box in the Geography department, 6th floor NW Quadrant, by 4:30 pm | n/a                   |                                                                                               |
|      | 22-May   | Grades due                                                           |                       |                                                                                               |