Rethinking Social Movements: Reading Anti-Systemic Protest
Professor Tithi Bhattacharya

Time and Place: Tuesdays, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm, UNIV 319
Office Hours: 12noon to 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and by appointment at UNIV 309
Email: tbhattac@purdue.edu

Course Description
This seminar explores some of the most current scholarship on social movement, power, and protest. The course is founded on critical analyses of the ‘order’ of capitalism, its every-day modes of operation, regulation and its methods of legitimation of its own sense of stability and crises. We will examine social movements as moments of profound disruption of that order and what such disruptions mean in terms long-term historical change. The course will pay particular attention to social movements of the global south and seek to situate those specific political processes within a generalized and integrated global economy.

Required Books:
1. Tom Mertes ed., A Movement of Movements: Is Another World Really Possible?
2. Giovanni Arrighi, Terence K. Hopkins, Immanuel Wallerstein, Anti-Systemic Movements

There are 4 continental modules (Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East) for the course. Each module offers a view of a specific social movement from the region.

3. Asia: Arundhuti Roy, Walking with the Comrades
5. Latin America: James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, Social Movements and State Power: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador
6. Middle East: El-Mahdi, Rabab, and Philip Marfleet (eds), Egypt: The Moment of Change

The books are available at:
Von’s Book Store, 315 West State Street, W. Lafayette, Phone: (765) 743-1915

Class Format and Requirements
The class is organized as a seminar with students taking an active role in the learning process. This involves reflecting on the readings, leading class discussions and bringing provocative thoughts and questions to the class.

Course Requirements
You are expected to:
(1) Read ALL assigned texts and once a week write a page of comments (1 page)
addressing the content and concepts of the readings. These comments will be organized as journal entries and will be submitted for grading at the completion of each text. 
(2) You are encouraged to present your comments in class and bring provocative questions 
(3) A research paper is due on the last day of class. I do not offer extensions. 

For your FINAL PAPER you should:  
(a) Pick a specific social movement from one of the four module regions. 
(b) Compose an annotative bibliography of ten articles. It should include a one-paragraph description of the content of the articles and a final section discussing the relevance of these articles for your own research/project. You may use readings from your own field as long as they remain related to the theme of this class. This bibliography is due in class no later than **Tuesday, March 5** 
(c) The final paper will be a site in which you use the course material as a main theoretical framework to develop your own argument and research project 

Your **GRADE** is divided between these assignments:  
Weekly journals, comments and class participation **40%**  
Annotated bibliography **20%**  
Final Paper **40%**  

Attendance. Your Grade will automatically drop to B if you miss two classes.  
My policy on plagiarism is to award an F for the course. If you have any confusion on this matter please visit the Online Writing Lab on the web for their useful handout on plagiarism. You are always welcome to consult me about your all your assignments.

**TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**  
Please note that this schedule and the topics covered are subject to change depending upon a variety of factors. Changes will be announced in class. If you are not able to attend class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered

**Theories/Discourses of Protest**

**Week 1-2: January 8, 15.**  
Tom Mertes ed., *A Movement of Movements: Is Another World Really Possible?*

**Week 3-4: January 22, 29.**  
Giovanni Arrighi, Terence K. Hopkins, Immanuel Wallerstein, *Anti-Systemic Movements*

**Week 5-6: February 5, 12.**  
Continental Modules

**Week 7: February 19: Maoism in Asia**
Readings:
1. Arundhuti Roy, *Walking with the Comrades*

**Week 8: February 26: Africa**
Readings:
1. Peter Dwyer and Leo Zeilig, *African Struggles Today: Social Movements Since Independence*

**Week 9: March 5: Latin America**
Readings:
1. James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, *Social Movements and State Power: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador*

*Last day to submit Annotated bibliography Tuesday, March 5*

**SPRING BREAK: MARCH 11-16**

**Week 10: March 19: Middle East**
Readings:
1. El-Mahdi, Rabab, and Philip Marfleet (eds), *Egypt: The Moment of Change*
2. Excerpts from *The Case for Sanctions Against Israel* (On Blackboard)
3. Women of the Arab Spring.
http://theangryegyptian.wordpress.com/2012/04/25/mona-hate-us/

**Week 11-15: Research and individual conferences**

Final paper due in class: *Tuesday, April 23*