Professor Sarah Cate
Saint Louis University
Department of Political Science

POLS 3930
American Political Movements

Fall 2021

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am-10:45am
Spring Hall 141

Periodically American politics breaks from its routine of interest group lobbying and elections; previously silent groups find a public voice; the disempowered find the courage and imagination to experiment with new forms of participation; and fundamental questions about power and democracy are posed. What is the source of these periodic upheavals in American politics? What do the aspirations, successes and failures of social movements tell us more generally about the possibilities and limits for democratic and social reform in the United States? This course will focus on struggles concerning labor and racial equality from antebellum U.S. to present day. We will debate the merits of tactics, goals and ideologies in major American political movements.

This course fulfills the **Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement of the Saint Louis University Core.** This course is part of the Saint Louis University Core, an integrated intellectual experience completed by all baccalaureate students, regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. The Core offers all SLU students the same unified approach to Jesuit education guided by SLU's institutional mission and identity and our nine undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

Office: 124 McGannon Hall

Office Hours: Available by appointment.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to help students be able to:

1. **SLO 2: Integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines to address complex questions**

   -Understand the theoretical underpinnings of research focusing on the successes and failures of political movements in the United States.

   -Evaluate, critique, and synthesize competing theoretical explanations of political movements in the history of the United States.

2. **SLO 3: Assess evidence and draw reasoned conclusions**

   -Connect the history of the labor movement, civil rights movements and anti-war movements in the U.S. with policies and institutions today.

   -Deepen their views and values on questions of equality and justice.

Course Materials:

The following books are required reading and are available for purchase at the SLU Bookstore.

Jack Bloom (1987). *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement: The Changing Political Economy of Southern Racism.*

Additional readings available on Blackboard under "Files."

Course Requirements:

Readings and Lectures: Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to the lectures on the same subject. Lecture attendance is mandatory—and necessary—for success in the course. Information about tests, changes in reading assignments, etc. may be made during class periods. You are responsible for knowing this information, whether you have attended class or not. A sign-in sheet will be circulated in lecture.

Participation: Active participation is a key part of the course, as is weekly attendance. Students are required to complete the assigned readings before lecture that week and to come to lecture prepared to discuss the main themes of the readings. Be sure that you can summarize each assigned reading, describe the central questions and provide some critical assessment of the work.

Quizzes/In-class writing: There will be short quizzes or short writing assignments in class once a week. This is a way to help you process the material and be better prepared for the major exams. The quizzes and writing topics will cover material from the readings and/or previous lectures.

Reflection paper: This paper is based on an additional reading you pick to do from a provided list. It is due the last week of the term. More details will be given in class and posted to canvas.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will be on **Thursday, Oct. 21, 9:30am-10:45am**. It will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. More details about the format and content of the exam will be given out as the test date approaches.

Final exam: The final exam will be on **Friday, Dec. 17th, 8:00am- 9:50am**. The exam will be comprehensive. It will cover material presented throughout the semester but will be weighted toward the second half of the course. It will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. More details about the format of the exam will be given out as the test date approaches.

Grade:

You must complete ALL assignments to pass the course

Your grade in the course is broken down as follows:

Participation and attendance: 15%
Quizzes: 15%
Reflection papers: 15%
Midterm exam: 25%
Final exam: 30%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Classroom requirements: Any use of cell phones is strictly prohibited while class is in session. Turn your cell phone off while in class. Videotaping or tape-recording lectures is not allowed without first getting permission from the professor.
Use of laptops is not permitted because they are distracting to your classmates and the professor.

Attendance Policy: The health and well-being of SLU's students, staff, and faculty are critical concerns, as is the quality of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any potential COVID-19 symptoms (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the University Student Health Center for immediate assistance.

2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID-19 symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.

3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must

work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.

4. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student's ability to attend and/or participate in class for an extended period of time.

As a temporary amendment to the current University Attendance Policy, all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be considered "Authorized" absences

E-mail: If you have a pressing administrative question about the course, contact the professor via e-mail (sarah.cate@slu.edu). If you have substantive questions or comments about the content of the course or American politics more generally, come see the professor during office hours.

Before outlining the schedule of reading and assignments, the following sections detail important policies and resources provided by the University. Please take the time to carefully read through these paragraphs so you are aware of your rights and resources and so you can notify me of any questions or concerns you might have.

Face Masks

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and federal restrictions demand it, the University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class. This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect, the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
    - dismissal from the course(s)
    - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
    - dismissal from the University

- To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University-wide face mask requirement.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements
Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's ADA Policy. Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience**. This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu. To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php and https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information at the following web address: https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

Disability Services

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also

must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at accessibility_disability@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

Student Success Center

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/ to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

University Writing Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services

offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/ or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

Library Resources

The Librarian for Political Science is Rebecca Hyde. Her office is room 202H of Pius Library. Rebecca provides research assistance with library and other information resources, developing search strategies, finding the right sources for your research project and more. Her can contact her via email (rebecca.hyde@slu.edu) and/or set up an appointment online.

Basic Needs Security

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office (deanofstudents@slu.edu or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

Week 1: Overview

Thursday (Aug. 26)

Introduction, Syllabus, Goals

Readings:

"Class Notes: Posing as Politics and Other Thoughts on the American Scene." *The New York Times* – Adolph Reed Jr. (Canvas).

"We Are Not What We Seem: Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South" – Robin D.G. Kelley. (Canvas). *ONLY pages 75-79 and 110-112*

Week 2: Theories of Social Movements

Tuesday (Aug. 31)

Readings:

Piven and Cloward, *Poor People's Movements*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-37. (Canvas).
Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Introduction, pp. 1-15

Thursday (Sept. 2)

Film:

Free State of Jones (*Disclaimer: Rated R for brutal battle scenes. There are also references to rape. Please let me know if you would like more information about the film or if you think you will have any challenges with viewing content of this nature).

Week 3: Antebellum U.S. and the Civil War

Tuesday (Sept. 7)

Reading:

"Class War in the Confederacy: Why Free State of Jones Matters" – Cedric Johnson (Canvas)
"White Savior, Rape and Romance?" – Charles Blow (Canvas)

Film:

Free State of Jones

Thursday (Sept. 9)

Reading:

Boyer and Morais, *Labor's Untold Story*, Chapter 1, pp. 11-37. (Canvas).
Atkins, *Covering for the Bosses: Labor and the Southern Press,* Chapter 1, pp. 3-18. (Canvas).

Week 4: Civil War and Reconstruction

Tuesday (Sept. 14)

Reading:

"Race and Inequality: Race as a Social Invention to Achieve Certain Goals" – C. Mukhopadhyay, R. Henze and Y. Moses. (Canvas).

Thursday (Sept. 16)

Reading:

Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter I, pp. 18-58

Week 5: WWI

Tuesday (Sept. 21)

Reading:

Eugene Debs Speech in Canton, Ohio (Canvas).

Thursday (Sept. 23)

Reading:

Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter II, pp. 59-73

Film:

The Uprising of '34

Week 6: World War II and New Deal

Tuesday (Sept. 28)

Reading:

Atkins, *Covering for the Bosses: Labor and the Southern Press,* Chapter 2, pp. 19-36. (Canvas).

Thursday (Sept. 30)

Reading:

Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter III, pp. 74-86

Week 7: Civil Rights Movement I (Cold War Era)

Tuesday (Oct. 5)
Reading:
Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter IV, pp. 87-117

Thursday (Oct. 7)
Reading:
Butler, Smedley. *War is a Racket*, pp. 22-66. (Canvas).

Week 8: Civil Rights Movement II

Tuesday (Oct. 12)
Reading:
Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter V, pp. 120-154

Thursday (Oct. 14)
Reading:
Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter VI, pp. 155-185

Week 9: Recap and Midterm

Tuesday (Oct. 19)
Recap and review

Thursday (Oct. 21) – MIDTERM

Extra credit reflection paper due by 5pm

Week 10: Black Power

Tuesday (Oct. 26)
Reading:
Bloom, *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement*, Chapter VII, pp. 186-213
"Black Power and Coalition Politics" – Bayard Rustin. (Canvas).

Thursday (Oct. 28) NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

Week 11: Vietnam War I

Tuesday (Nov. 2)
Reading:
"The War in America (1965-1967)" from *Vietnam Wars* – Marilyn Young. (Canvas).

Thursday (Nov. 4)
Reading:
Selections from *Waging Peace in Vietnam* (Canvas)
Film:
The Quiet Mutiny

Week 12: Vietnam War II

Tuesday (Nov. 9)
Reading:
Selections from *Soldiers in Revolt* – David Cortright. (Canvas)

Thursday (Nov. 11)
Film:
Hearts and Minds

Week 13: Decline of Labor

Tuesday (Nov. 16)
Reading:
"The Crisis of Labour and the Left in the United States" – Mark Dudzic and Adolph Reed Jr. (Canvas).

Thursday (Nov. 18)
Reading:
"Why Did White Workers Leave the Democratic Party?" – Judith Stein (Canvas).
Film:
Roger and Me

Week 14: (**Nov. 23 and Nov. 25) – NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15: Flint, MI Before and After

Tuesday (Nov. 30)
Reading:
"Sit Down at Flint" from *Labor's Untold Story* – R.O. Boyer and H.M. Morais (Canvas).
Film:
Roger and Me

Thursday (Dec. 2)
Reading:
"Flint's toxic water crisis was 50 years in the making" – Andrew Highsmith (Canvas).

Week 16: Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter

Tuesday (Dec. 7)

Reading:
"You Don't Need a Weatherman…" - Mark Dudzic (Canvas).
"A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement" – Alicia Garza (Canvas).
"The Triumph of Black Lives Matter and Neoliberal Redemption" – Cedric Johnson (Canvas).

Thursday (Dec. 9)

Recap and Final Exam Preparation

Reflection Paper Due at 9:30am

Final exam: Friday Dec. 17th, 8:00am- 9:50am.