

SOCI 316¹

Social Movements

Instructor:

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Course Description:

Social movements are the source of societal renewal. Either being universalist in their outlooks and mandates, like labor or social justice movements, or particularistic, such as those catered on identity politics, SMs bring issues and grievances to public attention that had not been parts of institutional mandates. This course will introduce the students to the various aspects of SMs. Through lectures, discussions, and hands-on research activities, students will explore various facets of SMs and develop essential research skills to investigate real-world related issues. (The course will be in-person.)

Course Objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of SMs, and the many complexities at play in it.
- Define genuine questions about SMs and actively participate in research to answer them.
- Articulate how contemporary social theorizing applies to modern societies in understanding SM.
- Foster critical thinking and analytical skills through research-based assignments and projects.

Course Pre-requisites:

None

Topics May Include:

Starting with a brief history of social movements (SMs), the course will draw on the theories associated with it (e.g. relative deprivation theory, resource mobilization theory, and New Social Movements theory). Also, it delves briefly into the methodologies and research designs used to study SMs, enabling students to actively engage with and contribute to the field. The course covers identity politics, intersectionality, feminist scholarship, and colonial discourses. It also examines the network society, digitally enabled social change, and the fragility of networked protest. Historical and contemporary movements in Canada, indigenous resistance to colonialism, nonmovements, and the politics of the urban subaltern in the global south are analyzed. The course concludes with a look into the future of social movements.

Required Resources May Include:

Selected readings will be available on Brightspace.

¹ This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.