

SOCI-212.20-Social Dissent

Topic outline

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Course Materials

The following files are guidelines and resources to help you do well in the course.

[Participation](#) – 8%

[Reading Questions](#)

Questions on the week's reading (11) – 30%





[Social Movement Report](#) – 10%

Initial report: Due January 29

Three peer-reviewed articles and/or books: Due February 14

Essay (Due March 22) – 20%

Final Exam (April, 2016) – 32%

- [Announcements Forum](#)
- [News forum](#)
-  [Syllabus File](#)
-  [Social Movement Report File](#)
-  [What are Social Movements? File](#)
-  [Weekly Questions File](#)
-  [How to avoid plagiarism File](#)
-  [Paper Format File](#)

Read this guide before writing your paper

-  [ASA Style Manual File](#)
-  [Participation File](#)

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1 -- 21st-Century Protest -- January 8

Readings:

- What are [social movements](#)?
- White, Micah. 2016. "[The Birth of Occupy](#)." in *The End of Protest: a new playbook for revolution*. Toronto: Knopf Canada.

Concepts: social movement, cycle of protest, public space, anarchism, democracy, direct democracy, austerity programs, pre-figurative politics

Questions:

- What are the key issues and events in the cycle of protest that began with the Battle of Seattle and ended with Occupy Wall Street?
- What are the common themes of this protest cycle?
- Why has this cycle of protest failed to change society?

Recommended Readings:

- Tremayne, Mark. 2014. "[Anatomy of Protest in the Digital Era: A Network Analysis of Twitter and Occupy Wall Street](#)." *Social Movement Studies: Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest* 13(1):110-26.
- Kerton, Sarah. 2012. "[Tahrir, Here? The Influence of the Arab Uprisings on the Emergence of Occupy](#)." *Social Movement Studies* 11(3-4):302–08.
- Castañeda, Ernesto 2012. "[The Indignados of Spain: A Precedent to Occupy Wall Street](#)." *Social Movement Studies: Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest* 11(3-4):309-19.
- Smith, Jackie, and Bob Glidden. 2012. "[Occupy Pittsburgh and the Challenges of Participatory Democracy](#)." *Social Movement Studies* 11(3-4):288–94.
- Costanza-Chock, Sasha. 2012. "[Mic Check! Media Cultures and the Occupy Movement](#)." *Social Movement Studies: Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest* 11(3-4):375-85.
- Rushkoff, Douglas. 2013. "[Permanent Revolution: Occupying Democracy](#)." *The Sociological Quarterly* 54:164-73.
- [Contemporary Social Movements Forum](#)

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2 -- 21st-Century Protest -- January 15

Readings:

- McNally, David. 2016. "[Neoliberalism and its Discontents: Austerity and Resistance in an Age of Crisis](#)." in *A World to Win: Contemporary Social Movements and Counter-Hegemony*, edited by William K. Carroll and Kanchan Sarker. Winnipeg: ARP Books. [Bibliography](#).

Concepts: neoliberalism, austerity, social welfare, economic inequality, market individualism, solidarity, labour movement, infrastructure of dissent

Questions:

- What is neoliberalism? How is it related to austerity?
- How have governments been able to pursue austerity against the will of the majority of their populations?

Recommended Readings:

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3 -- The Labour Movement: History and Theory -- January 22

Readings:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "[Workers of the World Unite!](#)" in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Concepts: bourgeoisie, proletariat, petty bourgeoisie, class movements, labour movement, liberalism, capitalism, communism, social democracy

Questions:

- How, according to Marx, could powerless workers radically change their society?
- To what extent were Marx's predictions correct? What did he get wrong?

Recommended Readings:

- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1848. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. London.
- Sran, Garry, Michael Lynk, James Clancy, and Derek Fudge. 2013. [Unions Matter](#). Ottawa: Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights.

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4 -- The Labour Movement: 21st Century -- January 29

Readings:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Workers of the World Unite!" in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Ness, Immanuel. 2016. "[Introduction: The New International Working Class](#)." in *Southern Insurgency: The Coming of the Global Working Class*. London: Pluto Press.

Concepts: union density, precariat, solidarity networks, community unionism, anti-sweatshop movement, minimum wage movement

Questions:

- What new strategies could help the labour movement overcome the effects of economic globalization and the flexibilization of work: declining union density and increasing precarity?

Recommended Readings:

- Standing, Guy. 2012. "The Precariat: From Denizens to Citizens?" *Polity* 44(4):588–608.
- Della Porta, Donatella. 2015. "Social Structure: Old Working Class, New Precariat or Yet Something Different?" in *Social Movements in Times of Austerity*. Cambridge: Polity.

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5 -- Class and Social Change: The Co-op Movement -- February 5

Readings:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "State and Co-operative Movements." in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Concepts: petty-bourgeois class, co-operative, co-optation, capitalism, monopoly capitalism, economic democracy, decentralized democracy, bureaucratization, civil society, non-governmental organization, populism: authoritarian and democratic, co-operative commonwealth

Questions:

- In what ways did the co-operative movement attempt to democratize society?
- What was the difference between the ideals of the co-operative movement and the ideals of the welfare state? How did the co-operative movement nonetheless contribute to the success of the welfare state?
- What social conditions favour democratic, as opposed to authoritarian "populism?"

Recommended Readings:

- Betz, Hans-Georg. 2013. "A Distant Mirror: Nineteenth-Century Populism, Nativism, and Contemporary Right-Wing Radical Politics." *Democracy and Security* 9(3):200-20. doi: 10.1080/17419166.2013.792250.
- Dix, Robert H. 1985. "Populism: Authoritarian and Democratic." *Latin American Research Review* 20(2):29-52.

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6 -- Right-Wing Populism -- February 12

Readings:

- Kundnani, Arun. 2016. "[The Right-Wing Populism That Drove Brexit Can Only Be Fought With A Genuinely Radical Alternative](#)." *Alternet*.
- Swank, Duane, and Hans-Georg Betz. 2003. "[Globalization, the welfare state and right-wing populism in Western Europe](#)." *Socio-Economic Review* 1(2):215-45.

Concepts: populism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, immigration, social insecurity, social inclusion

Questions:

- How does a strong welfare state inhibit the rise of right-wing populism? What other social conditions could inhibit the rise of right-wing populism?
- How is it that people can be persuaded to mis-recognize the actual causes of their own social insecurity?

Recommended Readings:

- Greven, Thomas 2016. "The Rise of Right-Wing Populism in Europe and the United States: A Comparative Perspective." Washington: Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Retrieved 2 January, 2017. (http://www.fesdc.org/fileadmin/user_upload/publications/RightwingPopulism.pdf).
- [Research Proposal Assignment](#)

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7 -- Terrorism -- February 26

Readings:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Terrorism and the 'War on Terror'." in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Concepts: terrorism, theatre of violence, propaganda of the deed, state repression, state terror, surveillance, colonialism, state legitimacy, structural adjustment programs, Islamism

Questions:

- What are the similarities and differences between the Catholic resistance to capitalist modernization in the early 20th century and the Islamic resistance to capitalist modernization in the early 21st century?
- In what ways is the definition of terrorism political?
- What state interests can be served by amplifying the risk of terrorism?
- Is the war on terror also a war on legitimate dissent? Does anti-terror legislation go too far in revoking democratic rights?

Recommended Readings:

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8 -- Alter-Globalization -- March 5

Readings:

- Ayres, Jeffrey M. 1996. "[Political Process and Popular Protest: The Mobilization against Free Trade in Canada](#)." *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 55(4):473-88.
- Big Noise Films. 2000. *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*

Concepts: free trade, economic globalization, civil society, direct action, civil disobedience, diversity of tactics, public space

Questions:

- Who was represented by civil society? What reason did each constituency have for opposing economic globalization?
- Many opponents of free trade saw it as an attack on the welfare state. How valid was their argument?
- What argument do the film makers make about the nature of violence and the use of it by the state, global corporations and protesters?
- How is non-violent civil disobedience supposed to work? How effective was it at Seattle?
- What is public space? Why is it valuable to social movements? How was it put at risk in Seattle?

Recommended Readings:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Coalition Politics." in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

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9 -- Student Resistance to Neoliberalism -- March 12

Readings:

- Bégin-Caouette, Olivier, and Glen A. Jones. 2014. "[Student organizations in Canada and Quebec's 'Maple Spring'](#)." *Studies in Higher Education* 39(3):412-25.

Concepts: neoliberalism, coalitions, civil society organizations, infrastructure of dissent, resource mobilization theory, commodification of education, debt as social control

Questions:

- Why did students in Quebec (who had the lowest tuition fees) rise up in protest while students in the rest of Canada remained passive?

Recommended Readings:

- Spiegel, Jennifer Beth. 2016. "Performing "in the Red": Transformations and Tensions in Repertoires of Contention During the 2012 Quebec Student Strike." *Social Movement Studies* 15(5):531-38. doi: 10.1080/14742837.2016.1196126.
- Solty, Ingar. 2012. "[Canada's "Maple Spring": From the Quebec Student Strike to the Movement Against Neoliberalism](#)." in *Socialist Project*.
- Williams, Jeffrey J. 2008. "Student Debt and The Spirit of Indenture." *Dissent: A Quarterly of Politics and Culture* 55(4):73-78.

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9 -- State Opposition to Civil Society -- March 12

Readings:

- Phillips, Susan D. 2013. "[Restructuring Civil Society: Muting the Politics of Redistribution](#)." in *Inequality and the Fading of Redistributive Politics*, edited by Keith Banting and John Myles. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Concepts: collective identity, privatization of identity, mass society, neoliberalism, pluralism

Questions:

- Why do neoliberal states attempt to undermine civil society?
- What are the social consequences of weakening civil society?

Recommended Readings:

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10 -- Resisting State Repression -- March 19

Readings:

- Starr, Amory, Luis A. Fernandez, and Christian Scholl. 2011. "[Antirepression: Resisting the Social Control of Dissent](#)." in *Shutting Down the Streets*. New York: New York University Press.

Concepts: pre-emptive policing, total social control, antirepression, surveillance, sousveillance,

Questions:

- Do modern techniques of surveillance and control mark the end of social protest as we have known it?

Recommended Readings:

- Starr, Amory, Luis A. Fernandez, and Christian Scholl. 2011. "Policing Alterglobalization Dissent." in *Shutting Down the Streets*. New York: New York University Press.
- Della Porta, Donatella. 2013. "Restricting Citizens' [Participation](#): The Policing of Protest." in *Can Democracy be Saved? : participation, deliberation and social movements*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Graeber, David. 2008. "[Representation -- Part III: Mythological warfare](#)." *Direct Action: an ethnography*. Oakland, CA: AK Press.
- Bradshaw, Elizabeth A. 2013. "This is What a Police State Looks Like: Sousveillance, Direct Action and the Anti-corporate Globalization Movement." *Critical Criminology* 21:447–61.

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11 -- State Repression of Indigenous Dissent -- March 26

Readings:

- Crosby, Andrew and Jeffrey Monaghan. 2016. "Settler Colonialism and the Policing of Idle No More." *Social Justice* 43(2):37-57,108.

Concepts: colonialism, settler colonialism, state repression, criminalization of dissent

Questions:

- What conditions influence whether governments ignore, attempt to co-opt or to repress social movements?
- Is the policing of social dissent in Canada racist?

Recommended Readings:

- Jackson, Sarah J., and Brooke Foucault Welles. 2016. "[#Ferguson is everywhere: initiators in emerging counterpublic networks.](#)" *Information, Communication & Society* 19(3):397-418.
- Hooker, Juliet. 2016. "Black Lives Matter and the Paradoxes of U.S. Black Politics: From Democratic Sacrifice to Democratic Repair." *Political Theory* 44(4):448-69. doi: 10.1177/0090591716640314.

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12 -- Indigenous Environmentalism and Climate Change Activism -- April 2

Readings:

- Powless, Ben. 2012. "[An Indigenous Movement to Confront Climate Change.](#)" *Globalizations* 9(3):411-24.

Concepts: climate change,

Questions:

- How and why have indigenous people mobilized around the issue of climate change?
- Why has there been so little popular protest about government inaction on climate change?

Recommended Readings:

- Wotherspoon, Terry, and John Hansen. 2013. "[The "Idle No More" Movement: Paradoxes of First Nations Inclusion in the Canadian Context.](#)" *Social Inclusion* 1(1):21-36.
- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Beyond Nation-State Sovereignty - Indigenous Peoples' Internationalism" in *Social movements in a global context Canadian perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

- Rosewarne, Stuart. 2014. *Climate Action Upsurge: The Ethnography of Climate Movement Politics*. New York: Routledge.
- Worth, Jess. 2014. "Getting Europe out of the Tar Sands: The Rise of the UK Tar Sands Campaign." Pp. 207-16 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- Foytlin, et. al. 2014. "[Gulf Coast Resistance and the Southern Leg of the Keystone XL Pipeline](#)." In *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- Evans, Geoff. 2010. "A Rising Tide: Linking Local and Global Climate Justice." *The Journal of Australian Political Economy* 66:199-221.