



University
of Victoria

POLI 349: Issues in International Politics: Politics and Practice of Resistance

Instructor Spring 2023: Dr. Emma Swan

Course delivery: POLI 349 will be delivered face-to-face and on campus.

Course description:

This course explores the politics and practice of resistance aimed at bringing about societal change in the modern world. Through adopting a critical lens in order to bring to light relations of power, we will survey resistance in its varied forms: from nonviolent/unarmed to armed resistance; formally organized movements to everyday acts of resistance; to targeted reforms versus revolutionary goals. As we travel the globe exploring different examples of resistance, we will examine how cross-cutting intersectional factors such as gender, sexuality, race, and class play a role in shaping power, oppression, and thus resistance.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop skills in reading, writing, and analysis;
- Explore how the politics and practice of resistance brings about societal change in the modern world.
- Survey the diverse conceptions and motivations of resistance.
- Understand how romanticism of resistance can perpetuate and/or create new forms of domination and violence

Topics may include:

Nonviolent activists and grassroots activism
Michel Foucault
Power and resistance
Frameworks for understanding resistance

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.