SOCI 316
Social Movements

Instructor: Dr. Nicolas Graham

Course Description:

This course explores social movements as agents of social change and as potential carriers of alternatives that are more democratic, socially just and ecologically sustainable. The course begins with an overview of major theoretical approaches to understanding social movements, outlining their central concepts, and guiding logics. After laying this conceptual and theoretical groundwork, we focus more sharply on historical and contemporary social movements. We will discuss the labour movement, environmentalism, Indigenous resistance and resurgence, feminist and LGBTQ movements, both in broad and historical terms, as well in reference to recent campaigns and episodes of activism. Contemporary struggles will be viewed in their dynamic interaction with dominant institutions and elite actors and discussed in relation to the contradictions and crises of neoliberal capitalism.

Textbook:


A World to Win is available as an e-text, through ARP Books in Winnipeg. Here’s the link: https://arpbooks.org/Books/A/A-World-to-Win

There are also a number of copies of the text at the Uvic bookstore, which is offering free shipping: https://www.uvicbookstore.ca/

Potential journal articles/ book chapters to compliment the course textbook:


1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
Online Course Delivery and Evaluation

Online Delivery

Soci 316 will be taught online using CourseSpaces and Zoom. CourseSpaces will serve as our ‘home site’ where all course content (lecture links, videos, outlines, announcements, grades) will appear.

1. **Lectures.** Pre-recorded (asynchronous) lecture videos will be posted on CourseSpaces each week on **Mondays and Wednesdays at 11am** Pacific Standard Time (PST).
2. **Discussion Forums.** After completing the assigned readings and watching the lecture, you will be able to post to a discussion forum associated with each lecture. The forums serve as a place to reflect on course content and pose questions. Your posts there contribute towards your participation grade for the course.
3. **Tutorials.** A synchronous (live) tutorial will be held on **Zoom at 10:30 am PST** on most Thursdays. The Zoom link will again be found on CourseSpaces. The purpose of tutorials is to offer live/synchronous clarifications of readings and lectures. I will also pull together themes from the Discussion Forums and address any common questions found there. Tutorials will last between 30-50 minutes.
4. **Exams.** Two short essay/short answer style Exams will be held on **CourseSpaces from 10:30-11:20am PST on Monday, July 20 and Thursday, August 6.** The Exams are synchronous and you must complete them in the timeframe allocated.
5. **Group Presentation.** Students will participate in a group project, culminating in a group presentation. Group presentations will take place in weeks 6 and 7 (**between Aug 10 and Aug 17**). These will be pre-recorded videos to be posted on CourseSpaces during that period. More details on the presentation will be provided as we go.
6. **Final Paper.** You will write a 10 page (double-spaced) essay on a topic of your choosing. You may revisit and extend a topic identified in group presentations. The paper is due at the end of the semester, likely on **August 20.**

**Evaluation**

All Exams and assignments will be completed on CourseSpaces.

Exam 1: 15%
Exam 2: 15%
Participation: 10%
Group Presentation: 20%
Final Paper: 40%