Course Description
The objective of this graduate level course is to introduce students to the critical study of social movements. In the 1960s and 1970s, the world was undergoing deep dramatic transformations, including the American civil rights movement, the Mai 1968 revolt in France, and the growth of critical Catholicism from South America, among others. As a consequence, the study of social movements developed at an unprecedented pace into a major area of research. Today, the field of study is solidly established; yet, the social and political events over the last five decades have hardly rendered the investigation of bottom-up activism less relevant. In order to study how ideas, individuals, events, and organizations are linked to each other in broader processes of collective action over time this course is organized in four dimensions.

The first dimension refers to the relationship between structural change and transformations in pattern of social conflict. The course identifies shifts in main conflict patterns and discusses the varying theoretical underpinnings that explain these changes. The second dimension examines questions related to the role of cultural representations in social conflict. The focus here lies in the emergence and definition of social problems among different groups of social actors. In conjunction with this dimension, the third set of questions addresses the process through which values, interests, and ideas are transformed into collective action. Questions include for instance discussions on the organizational forms of movements in order to mobilize and ensure participation of individuals. Finally, the course examines how certain social, political or cultural contexts affect a movement’s chances of success. The theoretical discussions in this course are illustrated by different case studies located in a variety of contexts, time periods, and problem areas.

Course Objectives
The course will help students to think and write theoretically and critically about social movements. Student analysis of the field through written papers throughout the semester will help hone critical analysis skills.
By the close of this course, students should be able to:

- Have a firm grasp of the development and evolution of key topics in the field of social movements
- Identify, summarize and evaluate the fundamental questions and debates in the field
- Concisely summarize, connect and evaluate the research by writing short reaction papers
- Employ social movements concepts and theories in independent writing

Course readings
Diani, Mario, and Doug McAdam, ed. 2003. *Social Movements and Networks: Relational Approaches to Collective Action*. Oxford University Press, USA.


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. Cambridge University Press.


Articles
All articles are available online unless indicated otherwise. Book chapters will be made available electronically.

Current Events
Understanding current events is central to our study of social movements. You are strongly encouraged to read at least one major news source (for example, the New York Times or the Global Post) as part of your daily routine.
Course Requirements
Students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Class participation (10% of final grade)
   - Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to class
     and participate actively in class discussions in an informed and intelligent way.
     You cannot participate effectively if you are not in class on a regular basis.
   - Students are responsible for the material covered in class lectures and are urged
     to take detailed notes. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes
     for that day from a classmate.
   - Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken at each
     class. More than two unexcused absences may result in a reduction of your
     grade.

2. Three short analytical papers (20% each for 60% total)
   - All students are required to write three (3) short analytical papers of a minimum
     of 1500 words each (maximum 2000 words). Each paper is worth 20% of the
     final grade.
   - These papers are not meant to be mere summaries of the readings, but rather
     should critically analyze and synthesize the week’s readings, and should
     contextualize the week’s readings within the broader literature on transitional
     justice. Papers should discuss ALL the assigned readings for the chosen weeks
     they decide to write their papers.
   - Papers are to be submitted by email. Email timestamps submissions will mark
     papers received after the due date as late. Late papers will not be accepted.
   - Papers should pay particular attention to:
     i. The authors’ central arguments—what are the questions, outcomes or
        puzzles the authors are directly or indirectly addressing?
     ii. What empirical evidence do the authors provide to support their
         arguments?
     iii. How do the articles/books relate to the literature on transitional justice
         more broadly?
     iv. What are the key contributions of the work under review?
     v. What are some of the potential shortcomings of the authors’ arguments?
   - Papers are to be submitted as .pdf files and saved in the following format: 1. First
     name, underscore, last name, underscore, paper 1 (2 or 3), topic 2. For example:
     Arnaud_Kurze_Paper 1_Mobilization

3. Research Paper (20% of final grade)
   - The paper should include the following:
     o Introduction outlining the problem
     o A section describing the methods used
     o A review of the literature that the research builds on
     o Analysis section with discussion of findings
     o Conclusion, pointing to future research avenues
   - Due date TBD.
4. Research Proposal (10% of final grade)

- As part of the final research paper students submit a 2-page proposal on a topic of their choice with the instructor's approval.
- The proposal should contain a 300-500 word summary outlining the problem, research question and hypothesis of the topic. It should be followed by an outline of the paper.
- Due date TBD.

**This syllabus may change as the semester progresses.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis papers</td>
<td>75 each</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
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**Grading Scale**

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<th>Maximum</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>440-449</td>
<td>B: 410-439</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>390-399</td>
<td>C: 360-389</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>340-349</td>
<td>D: 310-339</td>
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<tr>
<td>F: 299 and below</td>
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**Classroom Expectations**

Debate and discussion imply tolerance and respect for opinions other than one’s own. All students must demonstrate courtesy toward professor and fellow students at all times.

All assignments must be handed in on time. No late papers will be accepted except in cases of documented emergencies. There will be no incompletes, make-up exams or extensions except in cases of documented emergencies.

Cellular phones, pagers, and other such electronic devices that could disrupt class must be turned off during class time. Computer use in the classroom must be strictly limited to the course discussion and assignments. The professor reserves the right to ban computers from the classroom if this proves to be a disruptive element.

**Honor Code**

The written work for this class will be submitted electronically through NYU classes. Essays may be processed through on-line databases so as to access the originality of work.

Plagiarism, cheating and any attempt thereof, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute honor code violations. Any violation of these principles will be pursed according to guidelines defined by the organizers of the summer program.
Course Outline

Part 1: Structural Chance and Transformations in Social Conflict

Week 1  Introduction to Social Movements
Week 2  Contentious Politics & Political Processes
Week 3  Levels of Analysis

Part 2: Cultural Representation in Social Conflict

Week 4  Symbolic Dimension of Collective Action
Week 5  Collective Action & Identity
Week 6  Collective Action Frames


Week 7  Mobilizing for a Cause: Action Forms, Repertoires, & Cycles of Protest
Week 8  Movement Sustainability: Securing & Maintaining Resources
Week 9  Individuals, Networks, & Participation
Week 10 Outcomes & the Goal of Fostering Change

Part 4: Social Movements in International Political Contexts

Week 11 Social Revolutions
Week 12 Movements Outside Western Democracies
Week 13 Transnational Movements
Week 14 State Repression & Policing
Required Readings

Part 1: Structural Chance and Transformations in Social Conflict

Week 1  Introduction to Social Movements


Recommended Reading


Week 2  Contentious Politics & Political Processes


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 3 Levels of Analysis**


**Recommended Reading**


### Part 2: Cultural Representation in Social Conflict

#### Week 4  Symbolic Dimension of Collective Action


### Recommended Reading


Week 5  Collective Action & Identity


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald. 1996. Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings. Cambridge University Press. Chap. 11.


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 6** **Collective Action Frames**


**Recommended Reading**


Week 7 Mobilization: Action Forms, Repertoires, & Cycles of Protest


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald. 1996. Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings. Cambridge University Press. Chap. 6-8.


Recommended Reading


**Week 8** Movement Sustainability: Securing & Maintaining Resources


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 9  Individuals, Networks, & Participation**


**Recommended Reading**


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**Week 10  Outcomes & the Goal of Fostering Change**


**Recommended Reading**


**Part 4: Social Movements in International Political Contexts**

**Week 11 Social Revolutions**


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 12  Movements Outside Western Democracies**


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 13 Transnational Movements**


**Recommended Reading**


**Week 14 State Repression & Policing**


Recommended Reading


