

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title	: HS4016 Social Movements
Pre-requisites	: HS1001 Person and Society HS2001 Classical Social Theory HS2002 Doing Social Research HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics
No. of AUs.	: 4
Contact Hours	: 52

Course Aims

From revolutionary movements that overthrew regimes, to women's movements that have radically altered and continue to challenge gender norms, to contemporary environmental and labor movements that shape the ways governments and businesses behave, social movements have been and continue to be major forces in human history. They account for why power relations are organized in particular ways in given contexts; they shape group identities and boundaries; and they help us understand the limitations and possibilities of social change in our own times and contexts.

This course serves as an introduction to the vast and rich research in sociology on this important subject. We will explore social movements through a sociological lens, asking: what are the conditions for their emergence? What are social movement organizations' and activists' tactics and strategies, and how do these come about? How do social movements shape the worlds in which we live?

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the diversity of social movements past and present
2. Evaluate the different ways sociologists have approached the study of social movements
3. Describe the key theories that account for social movements
4. Articulate connections between micro, meso, and macro phenomena in social movements

Course Content

Week 1 - Introduction to the course

Week 2 – What are social movements? What do sociologists want to know about them? Why is it important to study social movements?

Week 3 – Why do people join social movements? Who does, and under what conditions?

Week 4 – Under what conditions do social movements arise? Introduction to resource mobilization and political process theories of social movements

Week 5 – Evaluating the value of our newly acquired theoretical tools: how well do the theories account for the Student Movement in Berkeley, and the women’s movements in the U.S. and in Singapore?

Week 6 – States and formal political structures: how do they shape and limit opportunities?

Week 7 – “Culture”—what is it, and how does it influence social movements?

Week 8 – What do social movements organizations do, and why do they use certain strategies and not others?

Week 9 – Mobilizing consensus: identity and discourse as strategies

Week 10 – Presentations

Week 11 – Interactions with opponents: inter-movement dynamics; counter-movements; regime responses

Week 12 – How do social movements shape society, and what are the limits to their effects?

Week 13 – What is the relationship between democracy and social movements? What have we learnt?

Course Assessment

CA1	Reading memos x 10	: 20%
CA2	Team research project and essay	: 30%
CA3	Presentation	: 30%
CA4	Class Participation	: 20%
Total		----- 100%