



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 4426F-001
Protest and Contentious Action
Fall 2021

Wednesdays at 4:30pm-7:30pm, SSC-5235

Instructor: Professor Howard Ramos

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC

Email: howard.ramos@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This course will focus on the study of contemporary protest, contentious action and mobilization looking at different theories, movements and actions in pursuit of social change. Each week will be divided into two sections, one that introduces theoretical perspectives and another that critically examines a form of protest or contentious action. The course will look at different instances of mobilization to examine the rise, fall, and maintenance of social change.

Prerequisite(s):

Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honours Specializations or Honours Double Majors in Sociology or Criminology, or special permission from the Department of Sociology.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s): None

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn about contemporary forms of extra-institutional politics and their historical origins. The class will focus on understanding #BlackLives Matter, #IdleNoMore, #MeToo, Environmental activism, the Arab Spring, the Umbrella movement and Right Wing and Antifa movements through social movement studies. Students will also learn how to systematically find and document academic material, synthesize debates, and write an academic paper that offers an original contribution to the area.

Required Text(s):

Selected peer-reviewed academic readings will be available on the class OWL site. Each week students will be expected to read 30 to 60 pages of material.

Method of Evaluation:**Project portfolio (PP) (70%)**

1) Proposal, justification research question 20% -due September 29

Using a protest or action covered in an assigned class reading, draft a short proposal for an original paper on it and/or some element of mobilization related to it. The paper should use at least one reading from class and two others from outside it. The assignment should be double spaced and no longer than 3 pages in length. One is expected to cite all relevant sources and include a full bibliography of works cited. The bibliography is not included in the page count.

2) Available literature and evidence 20% -due October 28

Building upon the first portfolio, using the same issue and/action that you picked for your initial proposal, engage at least three more articles that address them empirically. Incorporate your own views on how you think the theoretical and empirical research could be improved and see researchers use data to derive conclusions in the field. The assignment should be double spaced and no longer than 3 pages in length. One is expected to cite all relevant sources and include a full bibliography of works cited. The bibliography is not included in the page count.

3) Essay on an issue relating to a social movement 30% -due December 8

Combine elements of the previous two project portfolio assignments to write an original sociological paper on protest and contentious actions. The paper should incorporate feedback from the original portfolio evaluation and should critically examine the same issues engaged in previous assignments, highlighting your own observations, and situating them in a dominant literature. The paper should support its conclusions with secondary evidence. The paper should include the six or more sources identifies in the first two portfolio assignments as well as other reading. One is expected to cite all relevant sources and include a full bibliography of works cited. The suggested page length is 10 pages.

Original Response and Question papers (ORAQs) 30%

Over the course of the term complete at least 10 ORAQs worth 3% each. These should be no more than 500 words. The first 10 submitted will be graded. All ORAQs are due via email on the Tuesday before class each week. They should correspond to the reading assigned for a given week.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Late submission will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. If an extension is needed, students should contact the professor no later than one week before the deadline or follow the policies on “academic consideration of missed work” specified below. No extension will be offered on the ORAQs.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration

by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.