

PSCI 4306: Protest and Social Movements Syllabus Summer 2024

Course Information

Term: Summer 2024

Class Location: JSOM 12.206

Days & Times: Tuesday & Thursday,
12:30pm - 2:45pm

Modality: In-person*

Course Pre-requisites: None

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of protests and social movements throughout history, examining their causes, dynamics, and impacts on society. From ancient rebellions to contemporary uprisings, students will delve into the rich tapestry of collective action, activism, and resistance that has shaped the course of human history. Through a multidisciplinary approach drawing from sociology, history, political science, and cultural studies, students will analyze the complex interplay of factors that fuel social movements and drive individuals to take to the streets in pursuit of change. We will examine the role of ideology, identity, grievance, and opportunity structures in mobilizing and sustaining protests across diverse contexts.

Contact and Office Hours

Instructor: Naela Elmore

Email Address:

naela.elmore@utdallas.edu

Office Location: GR 3.314

Office Hours:

Students may schedule an appointment using [this link](#).

Modality: In-Person

The course is set to be taught as an in-person course meaning students are expected to attend class. If university policy requires the modality of course instruction to be adjusted, students will receive an email from the instructor with updated course information. Unless required by COVID-19 policy or through ARC, video recordings of the class will not be made available to students.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions:

- ~ Can social movements be understood in political terms? For example, do they target the nation state and political institutions and rely upon the 'political opportunities' they provide?
- ~ Can social movements be understood in psychological terms? For example, do social movements rely upon the existence of strains in society and the grievances that they cause people?
- ~ Can social movements be understood as 'organizations'? For example, do they rely upon formal organization and the mobilization of tangible resources?
- ~ Can social movements be understood in 'rational' terms? For example, do social movements rely upon strategy and rational calculations of success?
- ~ Can we identify common patterns, challenges, and strategies employed by nonviolent movements around the world?
- ~ How can we understand the dynamics of nonviolent movements, including the role of leadership, organization, and mass mobilization?
- ~ How do we detect the strengths and limitations of nonviolent methods in challenging oppressive regimes and promoting social justice?

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Edwards, G. (2014). *Social Movements and Protest*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139026956
2. Schock, K. (2015). *Civil Resistance: Comparative Perspectives On Nonviolent Struggle*. University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 978-0-8166-9490-7

Assessment

Course assessment will be through weekly reading responses, a group project and report.

Assignment Weights and Grading Scale

1. **Group Report = 40% of final grade.** You will be sorted into groups during the first week of classes. The objective of the group project is to research and analyze an assigned social movement or protest event and present your findings to the class.
2. **Group Presentation = 20% of final grade.** You will be sorted into groups during the first week of classes. The objective of the group project is to research and analyze an assigned social movement or protest event and present your findings to the class.
3. **Reading Responses = 30% of final grade.** Students will submit seven one-page single-spaced summaries, one for each of the weeks covered in the course. Summaries are due by 11:59 PM on Friday of the specified week listed in the Reading and Assignment Schedule table. All summaries need to be formatted in PDF or .docx (MS Word) format and submitted through eLearning. A template for the assignments will be posted in eLearning.
4. **Attendance and Participation = 10% of final grade.** Attendance will be taken periodically throughout the semester. Your grade will be based off signed attendance sheets. The instructor reserves the right to reward students with exceptional participation marks.

Final grades will be calculated on the positive/negative scale, where:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| A+: 97-100% | B-: 70-76% | D: 54-56% |
| A: 93- 96% | C+: 67- 69% | D-: 50-53% |
| A-: 90-92% | C: 64-66% | F: Below 50%. |
| B+: 84-89% | C-: 60-63% | |
| B: 77-83% | D+: 57-59% | |

Reading and Assignment Calendar

(HR stands for Having Read. Meaning, you are expected to have read the assigned reading for that day and should expect discussion on that specific assignment day of class).

| Date | Topic/Lecture | Movement Theme | HR | Activity | Assessment Due |
|----------------------|---|--|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| Tuesday, May 28 | Introduction To The Course | | Syllabus | <i>Group Members Meet and Topic Selection</i> | |
| Thursday, May 30 | Conceptualizing Social Movements | Women's Rights and Gender Equality | Edwards, Ch. 1 | | Week 1 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, June 4 | Collective Behavior And Its Critics | | Edwards, Ch. 2 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, June 6 | Resource Mobilization, Organization, And Social Movement Networks | Corruption, Class Divisions, and Internal Strife | Edwards, Ch. 3 | | Week 2 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, June 11 | Political Opportunity, Frames, And Contentious Politics | | Edwards, Ch. 4 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, June 13 | Capitalism, Culture, And The Reinvention Of Everyday Life | Civil Liberties and Constitutional Overreach | Edwards, Ch. 5 | | Week 3 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, June 18 | Network Movements, Alternative Globalization, And New Media | | Edwards, Ch. 6 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, June 20 | Terrorism, Social Movement Theory, And Covert Networks | Authoritarianism and Democratization | Edwards, Ch. 7 | | Week 4 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, June 25 | Redrawing The Boundaries Of Political And Cultural Resistance | | Edwards, Ch. 8 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |

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|-----------------------|--|---|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday, June 27 | Civil Resistance In Comparative Perspective | Autonomy and Independence | Schock, Introduction | | Week 5 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, July 2 | Making Sense Of Civil Resistance | | Schock, Ch. 8 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, July 4 | Civil Resistance In The Twenty-First Century | Environmental and Climate Change | Schock, Ch. 11 | | Week 6 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, July 9 | Sources, Functions, And Dilemmas Of External Assistance To Civil Resistance Movements | | Schock, Ch. 6 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, July 11 | Nonviolent Action As The Interplay Between Political Context And “Insider’s Knowledge” | Economic Insecurity | Schock, Ch. 2 | | Week 7 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, July 16 | Four Dimensions Of Nonviolent Action | | Schock, Ch. 9 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, July 18 | How Regimes Counter Civil Resistance Movements | Agrarian and Land Reforms | Schock, Ch. 4 | | Week 8 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, July 23 | How Repression Can Promote Mobilization | | Schock, Ch. 5 | <i>Group Project Meeting</i> | |
| Thursday, July 25 | Youth Mobilization Before And During The Orange Revolution | Government Responses and Reactions to Campaigns | Schock, Ch. 3 | | Week 9 Reading Response |
| Tuesday, July 30 | | | | Group Presentations | Due @ 12:00 PM |
| Thursday, August 1 | | | | Group Presentations | |
| Tuesday, August 6 | Course Wrap-Up | | | Group Reports | Due @ 12:00 PM |

Course Policies

Communication

- ~ Emails about the course must be sent using your UT Dallas email and have PSCI 4306 in the subject line. Failure to do so may result in a delayed response from the instructor. Per UT Dallas policy, I will not respond to student emails sent from non-UT Dallas email accounts.
- ~ Expect all email messages to be responded to within two business days.
- ~ You may also reach out to the instructor using e-Learning. Please see the e-Learning tutorials for additional information and guides

Attendance

As an in-person course, attendance is expected and taken at the beginning of each class. Excessive absences will adversely impact your final grade. A student's attendance record will be determined by the official roll (sign-in) taken during class. It is the student's duty to sign-in at the beginning of class. That means being in-class prior to the start of class. If a student misses the sign-in, then they will not be recorded as having attended class - emails or communications claiming attendance in lieu of signing-in are not accepted. If a student is experiencing difficulty utilizing the sign-in portal, they should reach out to the instructor as soon as possible to resolve the issue. Any exceptions to this rule for religious reasons, sports team schedules, family emergencies, etc. ... must be approved by me before the class session that will be missed.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Late Work

All assignments are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Students who submit their assignments late will be subject a 50% penalty on their assignment score. E.G. if an assignment was submitted late and the student earned a 94% on the assignment, after the penalty, the student's grade on the assignment would be 47%.

Extra Credit

Any extra credit assignments will be announced by the instructor during class.

Grade Calculations

All assignment grades are recorded in eLearning and converted by the LMS into a percentage. Grades for the course will be calculated and assigned using LMS; alternative calculations of grades are not accepted. Grades are assigned based on the Grading Scale table found in this syllabus and it is the policy of the instructor and the course to not adjust up, round up, or "bump up" final grades.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades are at the discretion of the instructor AND may only be considered if a student has completed at least 70% of the coursework. In this course, 70% of the coursework is determined based on the number of assignments completed, not the relative weight of the assignments to the final grade. Additionally, when determining whether 70% of the assignments are completed, the assignment drop policies DO NOT apply and any recorded 0 on assignments will be treated as incomplete coursework. By default, if the course drops policies provide sufficient relief, then an incomplete grade will not be awarded. Additionally, students are not entitled to an incomplete grade and the instructor will exercise discretion based on the circumstances and totality of the student's participation in class including efforts to complete exams, homework, and attending class. See the UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog for additional details.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Courseroom Citizenship

This course is meant to serve as a survey of Protest and Social Movements. Course material may cover topics that some considered to be controversial or provocative - the instructor will do their best to present this material in the context of the subject being discussed. It is

incumbent on students to treat all members of the classroom with respect and to maintain a cordial atmosphere as we engage in discussions.

Academic Integrity

Every student at UT Dallas is expected to exercise independent thought and expression as they strive for academic achievement. Incorporated in the quest for intellectual growth are the expectations of honesty, originality in written and oral expression, a respect for the exchange of ideas, and acknowledgement and recognition of the abilities and contributions of others. Please see the university's academic integrity page for details and tips.

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable under any circumstances. This includes but is not limited to plagiarism, collusion, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, failure to contribute to a collaborative project, and sabotage. All work submitted in this course must be your own; you may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software. If a student is thought to be engaging in academic dishonesty, they will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct. For additional details on what may constitute academic dishonesty, please refer to the university's webpage.

- ~ Any student found to have engaged in academic misconduct or dishonestly by the Office of Community Standards and Conduct will be unable to resubmit work, cover the assignment with a drop, or utilizes policies outlined in the syllabus to avoid an adverse impact on their grade. For example, if the OCSC recommends a student receive a zero on a summary, the syllabus policy which drops a student's lowest reading response score will not cover that zero. In this example, the student will have earned a zero on the sanctioned reading response. Put another way, any sanctioned issued by the OSCS for an assignment will be reflected in a student's final grade and will not be covered by course policies that might otherwise provide students relief on a low assignment score.

Academic Accommodation Information

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Dallas to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state and local regulations regarding students and applicants with disabilities. In compliance with these laws, the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is dedicated to maintaining an environment that guarantees students with disabilities full access to educational programs, activities and facilities.

It is the student's responsibility to identify themselves to OSA and to provide documentation of a disability. Strict documentation guidelines exist for different types of disabilities. See the OSA website for details. The student meets with OSA, who determines

appropriate accommodations after reviewing documentation prepared by a licensed professional.

Instructors are under no obligation to provide accommodations for a student who does not identify themselves as a student with a disability. If a student requests accommodations for a disability but has not provided the faculty member with an Accommodation Letter from OSA, the instructor will immediately refer the student to OSA. Any documentation received from OSA must cover the current semester. Letters from OSA which do not cover the current semester must be updated before the accommodations will be implemented.

Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to Public Health Measures

UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the Fall 2021 semester to the extent allowed by state governance. Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-38 prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students, and members of the public on campus. However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC. Check the Comets United: Latest Updates webpage for the latest guidance on the University's public health measures. Comets are expected to carry out Student Safety protocols in adherence to the Comet Commitment. Unvaccinated Comets will be expected to complete the Required Daily Health Screening. Those students who do not comply will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct for disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct – UTSP5003.

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.