**Module Twenty-Two** – Social Movements In this module we will explore social movements with links back to Idle No More and Black Lives Matter as well as other both informal and formal movements. This will link with other modules already covered in the course.

This is the last content of the class – and as you will see from the final exam – this can still be used –

Today the chapter I am working from is Chapter 21 – Social Movements and Social Change

The definition of social movements that is referred to in the text is that “social movements are purposeful, organized groups striving to work toward a common goal. These groups might be attempting to create change (Idle No More, Black Lives Matter), to resist change (anti-globalization movement, Trump sentiment?, Biden as the next president) or to provide a political voice to otherwise disenfranchised people (civil rights movements – Disability activists, Queer/Trans activists/ Sex Workers/). Social movements create social change.”

From the text there is a breakdown of the different theories and their approaches on social movements

Structural functionalism – explores the big picture – social change is then done through policies and small tweaks to the social structure – how would might structural functionalists understand Idle No More? What about civil rights movements? The idea of baby steps may help you here – when we hear this repeated in the media – this is about the reproduction of the society – that we don’t need to change quickly – we can do it slowly and if things are working for the majority of people then this becomes a rallying cry – what do we do with the support for Trump – how might we understand this rather than react?

According to the exit poll, Trump did better in 2020 with every race and gender except white men.  
  
Change from 2016:  
  
White Men -5  
White Women +2  
Black Men +4  
Black Women +4  
Latino Men +3  
Latino Women +3  
Other +5 [**pic.twitter.com/hUc17Iy1ip**](https://t.co/hUc17Iy1ip)

— Matt Bruenig (@MattBruenig) [November 4, 2020](https://twitter.com/MattBruenig/status/1323825846365396992?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Lest we forget “This year, the majority of white Americans voted for Trump, even after a recession and a botched response to a pandemic that has left more than 200,000 dead.”

What does this tell us about change and social movements and people?

A conflict theory perspective – (or a critical perspective) focuses on the basis for inequality and would usually be understood as representative of movements such as Idle No More and Black Lives Matter – this approach focuses on the structural inequalities that exist and suggest to change this will require much greater change than tweaking policies – this we see in land-back movements that have existed in places like Mexico – and where we see large parcels of land allocated to Indigenous groups for self governance, or when control for resources is wrestled out of the hands of certain groups – the kinds of protests that we see at global economic events (such as G20) are often a reflection of a desire for change but these may be simply demonstrations without real influence - here we see the media colluding with large corporate interests in that these are rarely given coverage

Symbolic interaction would explore the individuals involved in social change movement, the meanings that they bring to the movement, the signs, the expressions and the kinds of changes that they embody – often we focus on individuals to give us meaning in this way – consider how many of us will use quotes/memes from people we think of as influential – “Be the Change you wish to see in the world” – attributed to Ghandi – but derived from the longer quote

“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Feminism(s) then focuses on the personal as political and how gender and other categories are expressed – so are the women in the movements understood, appreciated? Or are they replicating power structures we see in the everyday world? These are the kinds of questions that feminists then ask of social movements – are these rights that are only afforded for some? Further to this is the idea that if men are the gendered category associated with social movements then what happens to interests of other gendered groups? How are they expressed, supported, and understood – not a coincidence then that in both Idle No More and Black Lives Matter have been manifestations of gendered female experiences of the world – in fact this may be a casual feature for the perspective – that voices which have been ignored/ excluded are yelling –

Types of social movements – there are

Reform movements - MADD

Revolutionary movements – anarchist collectives

Redemptive movements - AA

Alternative movements – slow food

Resistance movements – KKK

There is a process to the formation of social movements –

Preliminary stage – people become aware of an issue and leaders emerge

Coalescence stage – joint together organize, publicize, and raise awareness

Institutionalization stage – organizations take on structure and bureaucratic processes

Decline stage – after the change has happened –

Theories regarding social movements – what does this mean?

Resource mobilization – part of the social movement industry

Framing/frame analysis – includes how individuals react and how they appeal to individuals’ sense of fairness

New social movement theory – focus on autonomy, identity, self-realization and quality of life issues – in fact may be more of a “rainbow coalition” bridging diverse groups for moments of collective interest

Social change –

Technology – what is the world going to look like in forty years?

Social institutions – for instance family size and make-up

Population – the different demographics and the growth of population

Environment – how many people/ how much strain/ what are the consequences

Modernization – the ideas that technology has leaked into our everyday

Question for the final exam

Consider your interactions with social media. What social movements do you see/follow on the regular? What kind of social movement is this? What does this tell you about how you might see the world in terms of theoretical approach?

**Review –** for this I will be going through the final exam and exploring each of the concepts that are covered here – please make sure to ask questions about what you would like more information on –

**Final Take Home Exam – To be completed by June 22/ 2021**

Each answer should be a minimum 250 words long. Start by defining your terms. Give clear specific examples. Demonstrate your use of sociological terms. **You must answer a total of ten questions**.

**You must answer the first two**

1. From all of the concepts from this semester choose three that you would like to explore more fully – (***do not cut and paste your answers from this exam or previous exams or assignments***) Define and clear specific examples – explain why these are important concepts to you
2. Explore the concepts of socialization/ ascription and achievement – Apply these concepts to someone you know quite well (you may use yourself) – and describe how they have been socialized in both ascription and achievement to create their social identity

**You must choose eight from the list below**

1. Module Eleven: The remains of 215 children who went to the Residential Schools near Kamloops were found in British Columbia last week – the film you have here discusses the policy of schools here in Canada -

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/29/indigenous-people-in-canada-grapple-with-unthinkable-loss>

Using the functions of bureaucracy (Hierarchy of authority /Clear division of labour /Explicit rules /Impersonality /Meritocracies)– watch the film and give specific examples of how these can be seen to be working

1. Module Twelve: Consider how we see ourselves as Canadians or whatever culture you understand yourself to be – Describe three hegemonic values and ideas, what might be counter-hegemonic to this?

This may help <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yusaaN32QpA>

1. Module Thirteen: Watch the following video – consider how the history of Canada combined with hegemony and socialization have resulted in Black Canadians needing to protest their current position in our society

Black Lives Matter in Canada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4nLW5fTPD0>

1. Module Fourteen: Using the three elements of ethnic identity (Engagement in cultural practices/ Identifying as part of an ethnic group/ ethnic group recognizing the person as part of the group) consider critically how you understand your own identity – using clear specific examples apply the three elements to yourself
2. Module Fifteen: Using the definition of gender that I have given you in class (rights, roles and responsibilities ascribed to a social grouping) consider how your culture socializes for all three of these elements
3. Module Sixteen: Identify three examples of how Canadian society is heteronormative. (Make sure to define your terms before you begin)
4. Module Seventeen: Using the social model of disability explored in this class, consider a person with disabilities – explore how life would improve for this person if we were to use the social model of disability to organize society – make sure to define the social model and describe a person – remember intersection in considering their (or your) experiences when you make suggestions
5. Module Eighteen: Considering how COVID has had a disproportionate impact on senior people, consider how three different concepts (from the notes) can help us to understand why seniors are impacted more than any other group in Canada?
6. Module Nineteen: Consider the purpose of governance – list three elements that you think are most important and then reflect on how they may be reflected in our democratic system or not? Would there be a point at which you would not vote?
7. Module Twenty-One: Take one of the social theories presented in this module or chapter and consider a crime – how does this theory help you understand the crime more effectively?
8. Module Twenty-Two: Consider your interactions with social media. What social movements do you see/follow on the regular? What kind of social movement is this? What does this tell you about how you might see the world in terms of theoretical approach?
9. Consider the relationship between your home country/culture and colonization/ What evidence to you see in your own life of colonization? – make sure to define colonization and give clear examples
10. We have explored the concepts of equality and equity. What are the differences between these two concepts? Consider how countries are treated in the COVID crisis according to equality and equity.