PSCI 390: SPECIAL TOPICS: PROTESTS, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND REVOLUTIONS
Fall 2019
RCH 204, Monday/Wednesday 10:00 to 11:20 pm

**Instructor:**
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**Office Location:** Hagey Hall 306  
**Office Hours:** Monday 4:00 to 6:00 pm

**Course Description:**
Political participation in the form of protest, social movement, or revolution is a major vehicle of social change. This course explores what motivates people to protest; what strategies and tactics they employ to achieve their objectives; what factors influence the outcomes of social movements. We also examine the role of government; can it repress the demand for political and social change? And finally, when is a social movement deemed to be successful? Is policy change or regime change necessarily the end objective? These are just some of the questions that will animate our discussions as we apply them to different social movements and revolutions ranging from the Civil Rights movement, the LGBT movement, to the Arab Spring, the Hindu Nationalist movement and Islamist terrorism.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Differentiate among the various forms of political participation and resistance.
- Understand the various theoretical debates that explain protests, social movement and revolutions and the methods that have been used to study these forms of resistance.
- Apply the theories and concepts you learn in this course to both past and current social movements.

**Texts:**
All readings will be available in pdf or doc formats on the course page on Learn. It is your responsibility to download these articles or book chapters and read them ahead of class time.

**Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:**

**Evaluation:**
- Attendance & participation: 20%
- News Analysis: 20%
- Film Review: 20%
- Research essay: 40%
Attendance and Participation in Discussion Section

Class Attendance: The professor will be taking attendance during lecture. Attending lectures is crucial if you are hoping to do well in the course. Lecture slides will be posted on the class website with a week's delay.

Participation is an additional 10% of your grade and will be marked starting in the third week. Your participation will be assessed in each session separately and will be worth 1% each. Active and thoughtful participation in the discussion section is essential for this course. Prepare for discussion section by doing the readings and thinking about the questions provided in the course outline.

While each student should participate frequently in discussions, the quality of the contribution is more important than quantity.

- Positively Evaluated: Responding to others’ remarks or questions in a serious and thoughtful manner; drawing together ideas to create new ones; showing respect and interest for other arguments and points of view; engaging others in pertinent and informed dialogue; curiosity in the origin of other points of view; wit and insight.

- Negatively Evaluated: The domination of class discussion by means of volume, tone, or sarcasm; 100% speaking or 100% listening with little attempt to balance both; refusal to acknowledge other points of view; not listening or appearing to listen; intemperate interruptions; uninformed or glib answers, including just general opinion; lack of weekly preparation.

Assignments:

Film review: (20%)

In a short essay (750-1000 words) review one of the films listed in the course outline. This is not meant to be a regular review in which the plot of the film is summarised and the artistic quality of the film-making is judged. Instead, watch the film with an eye for how issues of contentious politics are being addressed.

You should not do any additional research or make reference to any outside works in writing these papers. The aim is to develop your writing and analytical skills, not your research skills. The film forms the raw material on which you are to make a coherent and critical argument about resistance, protest and social movements.

This is a critical interpretation or exegesis of the film. You might want to briefly introduce what the film is about in general, but very quickly you need to impose some rational or intellectual order on the overall themes of the film. A good rule of thumb to follow is to pose a question at the outset of the paper that you intend to answer. This gives the paper coherence and allows you keep a focus on your question and its answer, using the film critically for this purpose.

This essay is due on Oct 11, 2019 by 12 pm.

List of Movies:
1. Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo
2. 30 Frames a Second: The WTO in Seattle
3. The Gate of Heavenly Peace
4. The Square
5. Ballot Measure 9
6. Malcolm X
7. Whisper to a Roar
8. Made in Dagenham
9. Gandhi (Ben Kingsley)
10. How to Change the World

*News Analysis: (20%)*

In this assignment you are required to do a critical analysis of how a contemporary social movement is depicted in the media (print/online). You are responsible for compiling a collection of news, popular press or alternative media treatments (3-7 items) and summarizing coverage of the social movement and its key components, issues, actors, framing, dynamics, or other elements of interest.

You are to write a synopsis and critique of how the social movement has been portrayed in the media, being certain to synthesize, compare and contrast ideas from all of your sources (1000 words). Be certain to include the complete citation and/or URL for each of your articles using Chicago Style Manual 2016/2017.

Your write-up should be a critical assessment of the social movement as presented in the media. This implies that you discuss the positive and negative features of how the social movement has been portrayed—that is, how the media has framed the movement, its actors, goals, tactics, and so forth. You should take into account whether the movement has been viewed sympathetically or critically by the media outlet and how this might help or hinder the movement.

The essay is due on **Oct 30, 2019**

*Research Paper: (40%)*

This is your opportunity to examine deeply any form of collective action and resistance that you find intrinsically important or interesting. More details regarding the assignment will be provided during the semester. **Due on Dec 9, 2019**

**Course Policies:**

**Course Website**

*How do I login?*

Users can login to LEARN via: http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/. Use your WatAM/Quest username and password.

*What can I find on the course website?*

The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, grades, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN.

*Where do I find the readings?*

Each week's readings and lecture slides will appear under individual modules titled Week 1, Week 2 and so on.

*Where do I find assignment instructions and rubrics?*

Under the module titled assignments.

**Submission of Assignments**

*When do I have to submit an assignment?*

Submit your assignment on the due date specified in the course outline by 12:00 pm. Assignments will not be accepted 1 week after the due date has passed unless you have an extension for a documented extenuating circumstance.

*Where do I submit my assignment?*

Submit your assignments on LEARN in the appropriate dropbox folder.

*What format should I use to submit my assignment?*
Your assignment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word doc. Please make sure all assignments are double-spaced, have 1" margins and in Times New Roman, font size 12.

**Late Penalty**  
*What happens if my assignment is submitted late?*
All late assignments (that is, assignments submitted after 12:00 pm on their due date) will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends).

For example, if you submitted your assignment at 5 pm on the due date it will count as a late submission. If you received 16/20, a 5% penalty would mean that you will get 15/20 instead.

*Can I ask for an extension and have the late penalty waived?*
A waiver of this penalty will be considered only in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (see extension policy)

**Extension Policy**  
*When should I ask for an extension?*
If you know that you will not be able to submit your assignment before the due date please make sure to ask for an extension at least 48 hours in advance of the due date.

*What should my request for an extension entail?*
You must provide official documentation explaining the need for an extension. This must be an extenuating circumstance (serious personal illness, critical personal or family crisis etc.)

Verification of Illness Form:  
[www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html)

*When will I NOT receive an extension?*
Most requests for extensions and other accommodations are at the discretion of the instructor. However, you will NOT receive an extension for computer-related issues, so please save back-ups of your assignments.

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**University Regulations:**

**Cross-listed course**
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course is taken under the Political Science rubric.

**Academic Integrity**
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on
categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

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**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

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**Turnitin:**

Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. If you chose not to have your assignment screened, the instructor will administer a 15-minute oral examination based on your paper. The oral exam must be scheduled 1 week before the due date of the assignment. If you choose not to use Turnitin, your assignment must be submitted to Dr. Mufti’s dropbox by 12:00 pm on the due date. See [http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo) for more information.

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**Schedule**

**Week 1**
Sept 4: NO CLASS
- Read the course outline

**Week 2**
Sept 9: The Collective Action Problem
- Garrett Hardin. “Tragedy of the Commons”
- Mancur Olson. “Logic of Collective Action”
Sept 11: Forms of collective political mobilization: Defining the key concepts

**Week 3**
Sept 16: When and why social movements occur? Structural Approaches

Sept 18: When and Why do social movements occur? Cultural Approaches

**Week 4**
Sept 23: The Rebel: Who joins a movement?

Sept 25: Sustaining commitment to the movement

**Week 5:**
Sept 30: What do movement participants think and feel?

Oct 2: Anti-abortion movement

**Week 6:**
Oct 7: What do movements do: strategies and tactics

Oct 9: Tactical innovation: Using Social Media

OR

**READING WEEK**

**Week 7**
Oct 21: Civil Resistance

Oct 23: Riots

**Week 8**
Oct 28: Armed Movements and Civil Wars

Oct 30: Genocide as collective action
- Philip Gourevitch. 1998. *We Wish to Inform you that Tomorrow We will be Killed with our Families*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, pages

**Week 9**
Nov 4: Terrorism

Nov 6: The Logic and Strategies of Terrorism

**Week 10**
Nov 11: Revolutions and Regime Change

Nov 13: Empirical Examples
**Week 11**
Nov 18: Repression

Nov 20: Empirical Examples

**Week 12:**
Nov 25: Why do social movements decline?

Nov 27: Consequences of social movements?

**Week 13:**
Dec 2: NO CLASS, work on your final research paper due on Dec 9.