

Professor Justin Paulson
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Method of delivery: **in-person lecture course**

Class time: Tuesday 11:35-2:25
Office hours: book through Carleton's Office365

Prerequisites: *Soc/Anth 1001 and 1002 or Soc/Anth 1003. Students with at least 3rd-year standing only.*
SOCI 2005 or 2170 are strongly recommended. SOCI 3006 or SOCI 3170 taken previously or concurrently is a good idea.

Course description and objectives

This is a course in the sociology of social movements, activism, and protest — one of the most inspiring areas of sociology. The course will provide an overview of historical studies and theoretical perspectives on collective action and social movements, with a focus on Canada and the United States. Specific movements examined may include labour, civil rights, Indigenous struggles, and countermovements of the Right, as well as the theoretical tools for understanding them. Lectures may include examples of and comparisons to movements in other parts of the world, but our principal cases studies will be movements in Canada and the United States that are ongoing or that have been foundational to our social world today.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to answer questions such as: What is a social movement? What factors influence social movement development? Why do they form in some circumstances but not others? What forms can they take? Why do some succeed, but others fail? How do specific tactics work, and why? What is the relationship between movements and power? What are the theoretical tools that best explain social movement? What is the role of theory in developing social movement strategy?

Throughout the term, students are encouraged to probe the relationships between social movements and social change, social movements and democracy, social movements and government structures, and social movements and revolution.

👉 **Social Justice Stream:** SOCI 3430 is part of the Social Justice Stream in the Sociology program — courses that build your capacities to make a difference in the world. Combining hands-on, deep work with rigorous analysis and understanding, the social justice stream offers the best of Sociology! Other courses in the stream are SOCI 2170, SOCI 3170, and SOCI 4170.

Course requirements and methods of evaluation

Students in this class will read a mix of historical and theoretical texts on social movements, and then meet for 3 hours each week. Class meetings may consist of lectures, discussions, films, and student presentations. *Note that lectures are not designed to rehash the assigned texts, but to complement them by providing background, context, clarification, and theoretical framing.* Students must be prepared each week to engage with and discuss the readings and the issues that they raise.

Students are expected to:

- Carefully read the assigned texts **before** the class meets. In the week before each meeting, whether or not you're giving a presentation or writing a paper, you should prepare some written questions, thoughts, and/or subjects for discussion that are drawn from the week's texts.
- Attend all class meetings, being prepared to discuss the reading for that week. *You should not take this course if you cannot attend regularly.*
- Complete all assignments on time and participate actively in discussion.

Assessment in this course will be based on:

- 📖 **class participation** (25% of the grade): this includes attendance (10%), reading quizzes (10%), in-class exercises, and the quality of your regular participation (5%)
- 📖 a **midterm exam** (worth 20% of the grade), in class on October 14.
- 📖 a **group presentation** (worth 20% of the grade) – details and signups will be made available Sept 9.
- 📖 a **final project** (worth 35% of the grade), which can be either:
 - a) a sit-down final exam (the default);
 - b) a class presentation of your participatory research in a social movement, accompanied by a reflective 8-page paper due December 2 with an automatic 1-week extension. *A choice for option (b) must be made in a one-page project proposal, due November 4.*

Extra-credit opportunities may be made available at various points in the term; these may involve attending and learning from campus colloquia, panel talks, and other events related to social movements.

NOTE: Written work submitted for this course may be the subject of additional oral examination. All final grades are subject to the final approval of the Dean, who also has the authority to change grades. All work must be developed and completed by students whose name is on the work. Use of AI to generate written work or presentations, just as the use of online "paper mills", may lead to immediate failure in the course.

INTERPRETING GRADES:

The grade of **A** is appropriately given to written work that is ambitiously and thoughtfully conceived, thoroughly developed and supported by evidence, and effectively edited. A grade of A is earned when students' preparation for and execution of all course components (including reading, in-class discussions, presentations, essays, and exams) are consistently outstanding. Work in the A range demonstrates high-level writing and analytical skills, as well as an accurate, nuanced engagement with course texts and concepts.

The grade of **B** is appropriately given to course work that very successfully meets the demands of the assignment, although some components may be more successfully executed than others. Students earning grades in the B range demonstrate a solid grounding in course materials, steady engagement with key concepts, and competent writing and research skills.

The grade of **C** is appropriately given to work that demonstrates an engagement with the demands of the assignment, and an accurate (if un-nuanced) understanding of key texts and concepts, and basic but adequate research, writing, and analytical skills. Students earning grades in the C range have satisfactorily fulfilled requirements, although in some instances, minimally so.

The grade of **D** is appropriately given to work that is barely adequate to meet the demands of the assignment. Students earning grades in the D range submit work that contains significant inaccuracies, omissions, or other signs of carelessness. D-level work reveals an effort to meet an assignment's demands, but fails to demonstrate fully the competencies required to successfully complete the task.

The grade of **F** is appropriate for students whose work is so incomplete, careless, or inaccurate that it does not represent a reasonable effort to meet the requirements of the course.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Standards: All written work is to be printed using a 12-point font and double-spaced. The Chicago style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers of this course. Chicago's author-date method is preferred by the department although the footnote method is what the professor prefers in his own writing and is also acceptable.

Written work not submitted in class is due in the Sociology & Anthropology drop box (Loeb B750) at 4pm on its due date. **YOUR NAME, THE TITLE OF THE COURSE (SOCIOLOGY 3430), AND YOUR PROFESSOR'S NAME MUST BE VISIBLE ON THE FIRST PAGE.** (Your student number is not necessary.) Per university guidelines, *you must retain a copy of each assignment you submit.* The professor is not responsible for misplaced assignments for which no other copies exist.

Assignments and exams due prior to December will be returned in class. Assignments and exams submitted in December may be returned with submission of a self-addressed stamped envelope or by arrangement with the professor.

Late Work: Reading quizzes offered on Brightspace may be retaken as necessary during Reading Week and Exam weeks. Quizzes and assignments taken in class may not be made up if missed. Presentations must occur as scheduled and everyone completing a presentation and paper has an automatic 1-week extension for the paper; there will be no extensions beyond that.

Academic honesty: Please see the section on plagiarism below for the relevant University policies. I take academic honesty very seriously. Researching, preparing, and writing your own work—and learning to do it well—is a crucial component of your university education. All suspected plagiarism cases, including the use of generative AI, will be delivered to the Dean's office for investigation and prosecution, with no exception for extraneous circumstances. Academic dishonesty cheapens everyone's degree, and also results in harsh sanctions. Just don't do it.

Computers: Laptop computers are **not** allowed in class except when **necessary** to take notes. (Documentation from the Paul Menton Centre is required.) Note-takers volunteering their notes for the PMC may also use laptops to do so. Any students using laptops will only take notes; internet connections must be off, and power cords should not cross the aisle. Other computers, devices, etc. must be turned off and put away.

Doodling is a time-honoured tradition of lectures. Listen. Take notes. Absorb. Question.

Cell phones: Cell phones should be off and packed away for the duration of the class. (If your phone or messaging device disrupts class or is otherwise used during class, you will be asked to leave, or to turn over your phone to the professor for the duration of the class.) Exceptions for those needing to be on-call for a kid or a family emergency but let the professor know.

Questions: Questions are encouraged throughout lecture. Out-of-class questions about the course material are best handled in office hours. **Please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment!** In the unlikely event that it is impractical or impossible to schedule an appointment, you are then encouraged to email your question to the professor.

Please note that all course-related emails should be considered formal communication, and written accordingly. Email must be to and from your Carleton account. as per Carleton rules.

Please do not use email as a substitute for reading the syllabus or coming to office hours.

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. But learning, as with understanding, begins with experience. Our class will be racially, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse; we will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations. Our lived experiences and reactions to the course material may reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives on and interpretations of the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience: you are encouraged to debate and openly express any disagreements with the conclusions of the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself as a scholar (ground your arguments in reason rather than 'opinion') and in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others. Derogatory comments and hateful behaviour towards others will not be tolerated.

We also recognize the location of the Carleton campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. All members of the Carleton community have a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Required Texts:

1- many journal articles and book chapters available through the library's journals and reserves system (all are listed under the appropriate weeks in the schedule of readings, below.

2- required textbooks available at OCTOPUS BOOKS, 116 Third Ave. (613-233-2589) or at the CARLETON BOOKSTORE:

Staggenborg, Susan and Harold Ramos. Social Movements (Oxford Canada, 4th ed.). \$93
☞ used is okay, but there are substantial differences with prior editions and you are responsible for material as presented in the 4th ed.

Simpson, Leanne Betsamosake. A Short History of the Blockade (UA Press). \$13
☞ used is okay

If you have the means and inclination to build your own library of social movements and social movement theory, please do so! Most of the texts in the required and suggested reading list are readily available. Reading in hardcopy is (for many reasons) preferable to reading online.

☞ TIP: The use of AI as an information source is strongly discouraged as its content is often of low quality and may be misleading. Wikipedia is similarly unreliable as a source on topics such as social movements or social theory.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics

SEPTEMBER 9:	Aims and Perspectives of Social Movements. Social movements vs. revolutions. Theories and paradigms for explaining social movements.
SEPTEMBER 16:	Working Class Movements
SEPTEMBER 23:	Theory (I): Disruption, strikes and blockades
SEPTEMBER 30: (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)	Indigenous resistance: sovereignty and anticolonialism
OCTOBER 7:	The New Left and "New Social Movements"
OCTOBER 14:	<i>MIDTERM EXAM.</i>
OCTOBER 21:	<i>reading week – no class.</i>
OCTOBER 28:	Liberalism, Radicalism, and Movement Decline
NOVEMBER 4:	Social Movements and New Technologies
NOVEMBER 11:	Theory (II): Ideology, hegemony, and affect Countermovements and the Right (I)
NOVEMBER 18:	Rightwing movements (II)
NOVEMBER 25:	Social movements countering the Right
DECEMBER 2:	Research presentations.