

Sociology of Dissent (Sociology 212) Fall, 2014

Time: T1/T2: Tuesday/ Thursday 3:45-5:05

Place: Nicholson Hall NH161

Instructor: Rod Bantjes

Annex Rm 9B

Tel: 902-867-2479

Office hours: Monday 12:15-2:05; Tuesday 11:00-12:00; Thursday 1:15-2:05

Course Description:

Are the claims of radical pressure groups justified? What forms of protest and political pressure are acceptable? Is it possible to change society for the better? While this course inevitably gets students thinking about such questions, it does not attempt to answer them. Rather it provides background on a number of important popular movements for change, and offers insights into how they work. The student can use this knowledge to become a more informed participant in public affairs, or as a basis for more advanced social scientific research. Most importantly, the objective of the course is to involve students in current debates about social change and social justice.

Required Readings:

Bantjes, Rod. 2007. *Social Movements in a Global Context: Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Graeber, David. 2008. *Direct action: an ethnography*. Oakland, CA: AK Press.

Online readings available through Moodle <http://moodle.stfx.ca>

Course Work and Evaluation:

Participation – 8%

Reading Questions

Questions on the week's reading (10) – 30%

News Story – 8%

Essay (Due November 13) – 22%

Final Exam (December, 2014) – 32%