



SOCI 312

Social Movements



The course this year will focus on structural explanations for the rise of right-wing populism. We will try to understand the rise of the far-Right in relation to the relative lack of success of other popular movements that might equally have addressed modern crises: the alter-globalization movement and Occupy; the environmental movement; the labour movement; the feminist and LGBTQ+ movements; anti-racist and anti-colonial movements.

Professor Bantjes

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Office Hours: Please visit me to talk about the course, especially if you are having difficulties.

- Monday 12:45pm – 1:45pm
- Tuesday 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Classroom

CO 110
Monday 11:15-12:30
Thursday 12:45-2:00

Readings

Perusall (<https://perusall.com/>)
Course Code: BANTJES-PQDAL

Assignments

<https://moodle.stfx.ca/>

Grading Scheme

Engagement with Readings (you need to pass this component to pass the course) – 30%
Participation in class – 8%
Research Proposal [or debate writeup] (Mar 7) – 12%
Research Essay [or debate] (April 4) – 17%
Final Exam – 33%

OUTLINE

1 – Coup d'etat (January 17)

- Homer-Dixon. 2021. "The American Polity Is Cracked"
- Hoffman and Ware. 2020. "The Terrorist Threat from the Fractured Far Right"

2 – Authoritarian vs Democratic Populism (January 24)

- Standing, Guy. 2012. "The Precariat: From Denizens to Citizens?"

3 – Mass Society and Authoritarianism (January 31)

- Gusfield. 1962. "Mass Society and Extremist Politics."
- American Press. "The Rise of Suburban Areas during the 1950s."
- Denise. 2018. "Mass Society Theory."
- Marshall McLuhan recorded by ABC Radio National Network on 27 June 1979 in Australia

4 – 1960s: The Medium is the Movement (February 7)

- Bantjes. 2007. "Movement Innovations in The 1960s"
- Hoffman. 2017. "The Best Documentary to Understand the Hippies."
- Reveal. 2014. "'All Power to the Imagination:' Paris, May 1968"

5 – Democratic Populism: Movements Against Neoliberal Austerity (February 14)

- McNally. 2016. "Neoliberalism and Its Discontents"
- Tremlett. 2012. "Spain's Indignado Protesters Mark Anniversary of Anti-Austerity Rallies."

- BREAK -

6 – Corporate Social Movement: "Class War from above" (February 28)

- Skocpol and Hertel-Fernandez. 2016. "The Koch Network and Republican Party Extremism."
- The Guardian. 2018. Cambridge Analytica whistleblower

7 – Far-Right Movements: Masculinity and Local Economic Control (March 7)

- Kimmel and Ferber. 2000. "White Men Are This Nation."
- TED. 2018. "My descent into America's neo-Nazi movement"

8 – Far-Right Movements: Globalization and the Uncaring State (March 14)

- Swank and Betz. 2003. "Globalization, the Welfare State and Right-Wing Populism in Western Europe."

9 – Democratic Populism: Anarchism (March 21)

- Graeber. 2002. "The New Anarchists."
- Perseus999. 2020. "David Graeber on Anarchism, Capitalism, Direct Action and the Internet (2006)."
- Big Noise Films. 2000. "This Is What Democracy Looks Like."

10 – Resistance Movements against State Terror (March 28)

- Bantjes. 2007. "Resistance to State Terror."
- International Center on Nonviolent Conflict. 2020. "A Force More Powerful"

11 – (Irrational) Conspiracy-Driven Movements (April 4)

- Olshansky, et al. 2020. "Flat-Smacked! Converting to Flat Eartherism."
- Brand. 2021. "Edward Snowden: "The Worst Conspiracies Are in Plain Sight."
- The Guardian. 2020. "Pegasus: the spyware technology that threatens democracy."

12 – Movements and the Technological Sensorium (April 11)

- Benkler. 2020. "A Political Economy of the Origins of Asymmetric Propaganda in American Media."