

SOCIOLOGY of DISSENT (Sociology 212) Winter, 2011

Time: EF/FE – Monday 12:45 - 2:00, Wednesday 11:15 - 2:30

Place: Nicholson Hall 161

Instructor: Rod Bantjes

Annex Rm 9B

Tel: 867-2479

Office hours: Monday: 2:15 - 5:00; Wednesday: 12:45 – 4:00

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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. 2009 *Direct Action an Ethnography*. Edinburgh, Oakland: AK Press.

Online readings available through Moodle < <https://moodle.stfx.ca/login/index.php>>

COURSE WORK and EVALUATION:

Participation.....	30
In-class questions on readings (6 at random times through the term)	12%
Moodle participation (5 to 13% depending on your strengths)	
Class participation (5 to 13% depending on your strengths)	
Poster session on a contemporary movement (group project Feb 8).....	15
Research paper (March 7).....	20
Final Exam	30

 Moodle Docs for this page

You are logged in as Rod Bantjes (Logout)

Soc 212 Outline

Week 0 – Occupy Movement

Video: “Behind the scenes of OWS-Infocus-11-06-2011,” YouTube,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cohBX_HMoz8&lr=1> (25 min)

Week 1 – Occupy Movement

Burbach, Roger. “A Turning Point, A Global Revolt.” *Counterpunch* (2011).
2011 <<http://www.counterpunch.org/2011/11/22/a-global-revolt/>>. (2 pp.)

Sitrin, Marina and Moreno-Caballud, Luis. 23 Dec 2011. “The Camp is the
World: Connecting the Occupy Movements and The Spanish May 15th
Movement” [Web Page]. Accessed 27 Dec 2011. Available at
<http://takethesquare.net/2011/11/23/the-camp-is-the-world-connecting-the-occupy-movements-and-the-spanish-may-15th-movement/>. (2 pp.)

Greenberg, Michael. “Zuccotti Park: What Future?” *New York Review of Books*
58.19 (2011).

<<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/dec/08/zuccotti-park-what-future/>>. (3 pp.)

Video: “Consensus (Direct Democracy @ Occupy Wall Street),” YouTube, <
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dtD8RnGaRQ>> (8:26 min.)

Week 2 – Global Opposition to Neoliberalism

Moyers, Bill. “How Wall Street Occupied America.” *The Nation*, Nov.21 (2011).
<<http://www.thenation.com/article/164349/how-wall-street-occupied-america>>. (3 pp.)

Leite, José C. and Carolina Gil. 2005 “The Spirit of Seattle,” *The World Social
Forum: Strategies of Resistance*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.

Week 3 – Terrorism

Bantjes, Rod. “Terrorism and the ‘War on Terror’,” 2007 *Social Movements in a
Global Context Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars’
Press. (36 pp.)

Week 4 – Arab Spring

Anderson, Lisa. 2011. “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences
between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(3):2-7. (5 pp.)

Week 5 – Nonviolent Revolution

Schock, Kurt. 2005. “People Power Unleashed: South Africa and the Philippines.”
Unarmed Insurrections: People Power Movements in Nondemocracies,
Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. (35 pp.)

Week 6 – The 1960s

Bantjes, Rod. “Movement Innovations in the 1960s: Resource Mobilization?”
2007 *Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives*.
Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press. (34 pp.)

Week 7 – Identity Politics

Bantjes, Rod. "Culture and the Politics of Identity," 2007 *Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press. (34 pp.)

Week 8 – Anarchist Organizing

Graeber, David. 2009 "New York Diary," *Direct Action an Ethnography*. Edinburgh, Oakland: AK Press. (40 pp.)

Week 9 – Anarchism: Direct Action

Graeber, David. 2009 "Direct Action, Anarchism, Direct Democracy," *Direct Action an Ethnography*. Edinburgh, Oakland: AK Press. (38 pp.)

Week 10 – Anarchism: Actions

Graeber, David. 2009 "Actions," *Direct Action an Ethnography*. Edinburgh, Oakland: AK Press. (22 pp.)

Week 11 – Anarchism: Representation

Graeber, David. 2009 "Representation," *Direct Action an Ethnography*. Edinburgh, Oakland: AK Press. (72 pp.)

Week 12 – New Information Technologies

Wasik, Bill. 2012. "Crowd Control." *Wired* 20(1):76-83, 112-13. (5 pp.)
Cole, David. "Keeping Watch on the Detectives." *New York Review of Books* 58.20 (2011): 73-77. (5 pp.)