Instructor: Professor S. Bashevkin  
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Office Hours: Mondays 1:15 to 2:15 pm or by appointment

Themes: This course examines the development and impact of social movements as well as counter-movements, primarily in Canada, the United States and Western Europe. Among the cases considered are civil rights, women’s rights, indigenous rights and sexual orientation activism. Questions to be addressed include why particular movements emerge when they do, what relationships they develop with mainstream political institutions and how counter-movements stake their claims in opposition to movement positions.

Course requirements: One two-hour class per week; students are expected to write one reflection paper, one analytic essay and two in-class tests. Given the strong overlap between lecture content and student assignments, regular attendance is essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for discussion in class and as a foundation for successfully completing the reflection paper, analytic essay and term tests.

Grading scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
<td>28 October</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall term test</td>
<td>2 hrs/in class/2 December</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytic essay</td>
<td>due 10 February</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring term test</td>
<td>2 hrs/in class/30 March</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Course objectives: Strong emphasis placed on enhancing students’ analytic skills, particularly with respect to reading texts, writing essays and participating in a lecture-based course. Since the course has no teaching assistant, POL344 offers an opportunity to learn about social movements through the eyes of an actively engaged research-stream professor at the University of Toronto.

Written assignments: Develop a coherent, concise response to the question posed, using empirical evidence to support your position. Criteria for assessment of student papers are as follows: quality of the writing and argumentation, strength of the evidence assembled to defend your position, facility with key concepts and vocabulary, and ability to address contrary points of view. Students must respond directly to the question using qualitative and/or quantitative evidence; neither essay assignment for POL 344Y involves writing a rhetorical opinion piece or manifesto-style polemic. Students are strongly urged to reserve an early appointment with their
college writing centre to ensure essay assignments and test papers reflect high quality writing skills.

Reflection paper: Instructions follow this outline. Written assignment should be handed in at the start of class on the due date. Note strictly enforced late penalty for both the reflection paper and analytic essay. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar. Given the close integration between lecture content and student work, written assignments must be completed and submitted in the order indicated on this outline. No other assignments will be admitted as substitutes for the course requirements outlined on this syllabus.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, please see the website of Writing at the University of Toronto: http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/

Back up your work: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work, and to make hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the instructor. These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ACORN.

Late penalty for written work: A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for both the reflection paper and analytic essay assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and waivers will only be considered on the basis of documentation submitted to Accessibility Services or your college registrar.

Submitting work outside of class time: Papers not submitted in person to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date must be submitted in person to the Department of Political Science staff in Sidney Smith room 3018 during regular business hours, usually between 9 AM and 5 PM on weekdays only. There is a drop-off box for students who arrive after 5 PM, and papers will be date stamped the next business day. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted. No fax, e-mail or portal-based submissions of written work will be accepted. All papers must indicate the course code, POL344Y, and Professor Bashevkin’s name on the top sheet.

Missed test and re-marking practices are consistent with standard policies of the Department of Political Science.

Required text:


Course book has been ordered at the University of Toronto Bookstore. Other readings listed below will be available on the course portal site, which students are urged to consult regularly for news and information.
FALL COURSE SCHEDULE
9 September – Introduction to course and theories of social movements (full class)
Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 1, 2 and relevant glossary entries

16 September – What are cycles of protest and why do they matter?
Staggenborg and Ramos, chaps. 3, 4 and relevant glossary entries

23 September – How did the US civil rights movement create what scholars term “a master framework for protest,” merging high drama with everyday acts?
Staggenborg and Ramos, pp. 68-78
T.V. Reed, The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005), chapter one.

30 September – No class meeting or office hour

7 October – Assessing movement growth and fragmentation
Staggenborg and Ramos, Glossary at end of book

14 October -- Thanksgiving, no class meeting or office hour

21 October – Feminism and women’s movements
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 6

28 October – Gay and lesbian movements **Reflection paper due**
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 7

4 November **November pause, no class meeting or office hour**

11 November – Indigenous protest
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 5


18 November – Environmental movements 
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 8 

25 November – Global social justice movements 
Staggenborg and Ramos, chap. 9 
D. Christopher Brooks. “Faction in Movement: The impact of inclusivity on the anti-globalization movement,” Social Science Quarterly 85:3 (September 2004), 559-77. 

2 December/Fall term test held in regular classroom 

Fall Essay Assignment 

Reflection paper, due 28 October 
Answer the following question in an essay of no more than 1000 words (4 double-spaced, typed pages using 12 point font). Note strictly enforced late penalty, explained earlier in this outline. Ensure that you retain back-up copies of your work. 

What contemporary social movement operating in North America or Europe has most directly shaped your life, including the values you hold and your plans for the future? What empirical measures permit you to gauge its influence? You might reflect on the impact of a specific mobilization such as #MeToo, Idle No More or Black Lives Matter, or a wider phenomenon such as environmentalism, feminism, sexual diversity activism or protest against the Trump administration. Be sure to explain clearly when you learned about the mobilization, how the work of activists challenged or altered your perspectives, and what indicators show this movement exerted such a strong impact. If no contemporary social movement has directly shaped your life, then write a reflection paper that explains how you remain unaffected by major currents of contemporary movement activism in Europe and North America.