

B. A (H) Sociology

Generic Elective 05

Sociology of Social Movements

Course Objectives:

1. The course seeks to introduce students to one of the most urgent and prolific areas of sociological research that has direct bearing on the course of social, political, cultural and economic changes. It explores how, when and why groups mobilize with what results.
2. This course is designed to equip students with diverse disciplinary trainings to understand the conceptual, theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of social movements, as well as the historical and descriptive analyses of collective action. It also draws attention to an important aspect of the analysis of social movements: their articulation with states, societies and cultures.
3. Through case studies drawn from comparative contexts, this course demonstrates the vital connectedness between collective action in social movements and other forms of institutional and cultural contexts. Particular case studies will be used as illustrations to understand more general patterns of social movements.
4. The course will also equip students to visualize the transition from traditional to contemporary social movements. The course envisages that studying social movements would ultimately foster an understanding of the dynamics of power, justice and human agency in transforming societies and cultures. To that extent it is a course that has a universal relevance and appeal.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. At the end of the course, students should be able to distinguish the central principles of different theoretical perspectives in the sociology of social movements and relate them to specific historical and empirical contexts.
2. Learn to use sociological theories on social movements to identify a phenomenon as one. Further, students should be able to distinguish a phenomenon as social movement from other cognate political phenomena.
3. Understand the dynamics and motivations of individuals and groups participating in social movements and identify reasons for success (or failure) of social movements.
4. Discuss and ask questions about social movement theories and methodologies with insight and precision.

Course Content

Unit 1. Social Movements: Concepts, Theories and Methods of Study (Weeks 1-5)

Unit 2. States, Social Movements and Politics (Weeks 6 -8)

Unit 3. Society, Culture and Social Movements (Weeks 9-11)

Unit 4. Contemporary Social Movements (Weeks 12-14)

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Unit 1. Social Movements: Concepts, Theories and Methods of Study (Weeks 1-5)

Goodwin, J. & J. Jasper (eds.). 2015. *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts*, 3rd Edition, MA: Wiley Blackwell, p. 3-7

Tilly, Charles. 1978. 'Theories and Descriptions of Collective Action', in *From Mobilization to Revolution*, New York: Random House, p. 12-51

Nilsen, Gunvald Alf. 2009. "The Author and the Actors of their own Drama: Notes towards a Marxist Theory of Social Movements", *Capital and Class*, 33:3, p. 109-139.

McAdam, Doug. 2003. 'Beyond Structural Analysis: Toward a More Dynamic Understanding of Social movements', in *Social Movements and Networks*, Mario Diani and Doug McAdam (eds.), p. 281-298.

Unit 2. States, Social Movements and Politics (Weeks 6 -8)

Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. "States and Opportunities: the Political Structuring of Social Movements". In Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, eds, *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, MA: Cambridge University Press, p. 41-61.

Desai, Manali. 2003. 'From Movement to Party to Government: Why Social Policies in Kerala and West Bengal Are So Different', in Jack A. Goldstone (ed). *States, Parties and Social Movements*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 170-196

Nilsen, Alf Gunvald. 2011. 'Not Suspended in Mid-Air: Critical Reflections on Subaltern Encounters with the Indian State', in Sara C. Motta & Alf Gunvald Nilsen (eds). *Social Movements in the Global South*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 104-130

Unit 3. Society, Culture and Social Movements (Weeks 9-11)

McAdam, Doug. 2000. 'Culture and Social Movements', in Lane Crothers & Charles Lockhart (eds). *Culture and Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 253-268

Hardtman, Eva-Maria. 2009. "Dalit Activities in Lucknow: Buddhism and Party Politics in Local Practice". In Eva-Maria, Hardtman, *The Dalit Movement in India: Local Practices, Global Connections*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 124-158.

Eyerman, Ron & Andrew Jamison. 1998. 'Politics and Music in the 1960s', in *Music and Social Movements: Mobilizing Traditions in the Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Unit 4. Contemporary Social Movements (Weeks 12-14)

Melucci, Alberto. 1985. 'The Symbolic Challenge of Contemporary Movements', *Social Research*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 789-816

Dwivedi, Ranjit. 2010. Parks, People and Protest: The Mediating Role of Environmental Action Groups", in T. K. Oommen, ed., *Social Movements: Concerns of Equity and Security*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 297-316.

Earl, Jennifer, Jayson Hunt, R. Kelly Garrett & Aysenur Dal. 2015. 'New Technologies and Social Movements', in Donatella Della Porta & Mario Diani (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 355-366

References:

Compulsory Readings:

Desai, Manali. 2003. 'From Movement to Party to Government: Why Social Policies in Kerala and West Bengal Are So Different', in Jack A. Goldstone (ed). *States, Parties and Social Movements*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 170-196

Dwivedi, Ranjit. 2010. Parks, People and Protest: The Mediating Role of Environmental Action Groups", in T. K. Oommen, ed., *Social Movements: Concerns of Equity and Security*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 297-316.

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Hardtman, Eva-Maria. 2009. "Dalit Activities in Lucknow: Buddhism and Party Politics in Local Practice". In Eva-Maria, Hardtman, *The Dalit Movement in India: Local Practices, Global Connections*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 124-158.

McAdam, Doug. 2000. 'Culture and Social Movements', in Lane Crothers & Charles Lockhart (eds). *Culture and Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 253-268

McAdam, Doug. 2003. 'Beyond Structural Analysis: Toward a More Dynamic Understanding of Social movements', in *Social Movements and Networks*, Mario Diani and Doug McAdam (eds.), p. 281-298.

Melucci, Alberto. 1985. 'The Symbolic Challenge of Contemporary Movements', *Social Research*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 789-816

Nilsen, Gunvald Alf. 2009. "The Author and the Actors of their own Drama: Notes towards a Marxist Theory of Social Movements", *Capital and Class*, 33:3, p. 109-139.

Nilsen, Alf Gunvald. 2011. 'Not Suspended in Mid-Air: Critical Reflections on Subaltern Encounters with the Indian State', in Sara C. Motta & Alf Gunvald Nilsen (eds). *Social Movements in the Global South*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 104-130

Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. "States and Opportunities: the Political Structuring of Social Movements". In Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, eds, *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, MA: Cambridge University Press, p. 41-61.

Tilly, Charles. 1978. 'Theories and Descriptions of Collective Action', in *From Mobilization to Revolution*, New York: Random House, p. 12-51

Additional Resources:

a. Books & Articles:

Della Porta, Donatella and Mario Diani, 2006. *Social Movements: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. pp. 1-29

Pichardo Nelson A. 1997. "New Social Movements: A Critical Review", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 23, pp. 411-430

Omvedt, Gail. 2005. "Farmer's Movements and the Debate on Poverty and Economic Reforms in India". In Raka Ray and Fainsod Katzenstein, eds, *Social Movements in India Poverty, Power and Politics*. London: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, pp. 179-202

b. Audio Visual Resources:

Documentary Series 'Eyes on the Prize'

'The Factory', by Rahul Roy

Teaching-Learning Process:

Apart from lectures, teaching learning process in this course has to be primarily interactive. It is a course that lends enormously for self-learning and coming into awareness and action research. The teaching learning could deploy the wide range of cultural resources mobilized by social movements worldwide to make the classes more interesting and engaging.

Assessment Methods:

Evaluation for this paper will consist of one assignment that tests the conceptual grasp of the issues involved and a class presentation of detailed case study of a movement or a theme emerging out of social movements.

Keywords:

Social Movements, Collective Action, Subaltern Politics, Resource Mobilization, Political Process, Social Policies, Political Parties