

PROTEST, MOBILIZATION, AND REVOLUTION

FACTS ABOUT THE COURSE

Credits: 10

Level: Master

Teaching: Spring, This course is not given on a regular basis

Examination: Spring. This course is not given on a regular basis

Teaching language: English

COURSE CONTENT

When do ordinary people take to the streets, in defiance of powerful actors and authorities? When does their collective action fail and when does it succeed? What methods and sources can political scientists draw on to study contentious politics and its protagonists? This course takes up these and other questions using theories and case studies from comparative politics and political sociology. Lectures and seminar readings range widely in subject matter – from the diffusion of mass protest to the backgrounds of rioters. The emphasis is on familiarizing students with the dynamics of protest and mobilization in a variety of contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE

The course aims to provide students with an opportunity to engage with a range of debates surrounding collective protest and mass mobilization. In particular, students will be able to:

- Account for the origins of the modern social movement, and explore the differences between ‘premodern’ protest and protest in contemporary societies
- Explain how protest tactics are invented and how they are spread
- Be familiar with the social conditions that produce activism
- Be able to assess the relationship between repression and mobilization
- Know the changing nature of revolution and assess the efficacy of nonviolent tactics
- Account for the relationship between collective protest and democratization
- Reflect critically on the uses of terror and terrorism as analytic categories in the study of contentious politics

SKILLS

The course will also provide students with a range of core transferable skills:

- The capacity to analyse and explain competing theories, concepts, frameworks using empirical evidence
- The ability to think independently and to address complex problems through the application of different conceptual and analytical toolkits

- The development and formulation of personal views and arguments, and the ability to present and communicate these concisely to peers
- The identification and sourcing of secondary literature and primary research material in the relevant area
- The organisation and time management of assessed and non-assessed work to clear deadlines

GENERAL COMPETENCES

After completing the course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- Familiarity with a range of empirical research designs used in the study of protest and non-institutional collective action;
- An ability to analyze and interpret research that draws on both qualitative and quantitative methodologies;
- Competence in primary data collection, and in particular, the compilation of event catalogs.

TEACHING

10 lectures (2 hours each) and 1 seminar (2 hours) for student project presentations

Compulsory activities

To gain access to the term paper, students must complete two compulsory activities.

1) Reading notes – to be submitted on Canvas

Students must read and think about all assigned material. Readings are available on Canvas. Prior to each reading, should consult the reading questions that will orient them to the main points we will be drawing out of each text. **For each reading**, students should summarize the main point(s) of the argument in one sentence, one sentence on the empirical evidence that the article draws on concepts, and one quote that you find interesting and useful. These reading notes will encourage students to read actively, rather than passively, and will serve as an index to the readings when students review the course material for the term paper.

The deadline for submitting the reading note is [insert day and time]; that is, before the lecture starts. The first reading note is due by the second lecture. Upload your reading note using the submission link.

Students must submit at least 7 research reading notes.

Reading Notes Format:

- 1) Title and author:
- 2) Summarize the gist of the piece in your own words
- 3) Identify the empirical evidence that the piece draws on

4) Useful or interesting quote

2) Class presentations

Working in pairs (or more), students will take it in turns to present the week's readings using a Powerpoint template available on the course's Canvas page (populate the slides for research question, theory, evidence, findings, and reflections).

EXAMINATION

Term Paper

- Students will create their own codebook and collect event data for an episode of protest.
- Students will then analyze their data and write up their findings using concepts from the course.
- The codebook, event catalogue, and findings will be submitted as one PDF document to Inspira.
- Total word count for the codebook and essay is 4,000 words (the event catalogue is not included in the word count).

To prepare for the summative project, we will devote a lecture to locating and coding event data. We will have a seminar at the end of the course where students present and receive feedback on their projects.

Additional information about the course:

Topics

| Lecture | Topic |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Social movements |
| 2 | Repertoires of contention |
| 3 | Diffusion |
| 4 | Ecologies of activism |
| 5 | Repression |
| 6 | Sources of protest |
| 7 | Elite-led protest |
| 8 | Democratization |
| 9 | Terror, terrorism, and terrorists |
| 10 | Revolution |
| 11 | Student project presentations |