Sociologists define social movements in different ways, but one starting point is this: social movements are collective efforts to promote social change by people who lack routine access to power. In studies of social movements, all parts of that definition represent problems. Why are they collective -- why do people sometimes take action together rather than individually (or not at all)? How are they collective -- how are social movements organized, and what are the consequences of different kinds of organization? Who are these people -- how do they come to think of themselves as sharing a common and valued identity? And what determines success or failure -- the opportunities available, or the strategies used?

We will take up these and related issues through several case studies, including the immigrant rights movement, contemporary organized racism, LGBT activism, and political consumerism (such as anti-sweatshop activism and Fair Trade). Students will also read up on a movement of their own choice.

**Course requirements:**

1. An in-class midterm and a comprehensive final. These will be broad essay-type questions and count for 40% and 60% of your grade.

2. Research on some social movement of your own choosing. You will have to use this case study on the final exam. You should hand in a page identifying the case study and listing at least 3 scholarly articles and 1 book (or an additional 3 scholarly articles) on your case at the midterm exam. By "scholarly" I mean that the articles must appear in the library's Sociological Abstracts database (which is also the best way to find relevant articles to begin with).

**Extra Credit Option**

You may use your case study for extra credit by doing additional research and writing a short paper about it. Whereas for the final you'll want broad background on your case, so you can use it to illustrate many different arguments about social movements, for the paper you should go narrow. Choose some dimension of social movements covered in the course (threats and opportunities, identity, framing, strategy, etc.) and discuss in detail how that concept applies to your case. For example, if your case is climate change activism, you might discuss how different groups within this movement "frame" the problem (as one of global inequality? human survival? limits to economic growth?), why they do so, and the strategic advantages and disadvantages of these framing choices.

The extra credit is 15% of the course grade (so if you got an "A" for the extra credit project, I would add 15% of those 4 grade points [.6] to your course grade, enough to bring a solid B+...
from the midterm and final up to an A for the course). You must discuss your topic with me by the end of week 4 (Jan 31) (you can only do the extra credit paper if you meet this deadline) and you must conduct additional academic research (using scholarly books and articles as defined above). The final paper should be no more than 10 double-spaced pages, including bibliography. It is due at our last class meeting, March 12.

The following paperback books have been ordered through the Price Center bookstore. They are also on reserve at Geisel library.

Greg Prieto, Immigrants under Threat: Risk and Resistance in Deportation Nation
David Meyer and Sidney Tarrow, The Resistance: The Dawn of the Anti-Trump Opposition Movement

All other readings are available through UCSD library electronic subscriptions or from my web page, as indicated below.

If you have either a scholarly or a more practical interest in how organizers try to promote non-violent protest, a good source of advice is https://beautifultrouble.org/

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Daily powerpoints will be posted on Canvas.

I. Introduction (January 7, 9)
What Are Social Movements?
Key tasks for social movements: recruiting activists, constructing collective identities, exploiting opportunities, building organization, framing goals, choosing tactics

Selections from "Freedom on My Mind," a documentary on the civil rights movement

II. Case Studies

A. Immigrant Rights Movement(s) (Jan. 14 - 23)

Reading: G. Prieto, Immigrants under Threat, pp. 1-33, 82-151

Topics: Why people usually DON'T protest; threats, opportunities, and networks in social movement mobilization; the challenge of sustaining activism

B. Organized Racism (Jan. 28 - Feb. 4)

"White Right: Meeting the Enemy," documentary on contemporary US far right

Topics: collective identity; framing enemies and allies; gendered differences within movements

C. Right-wing "populism" in the U.S. and Europe (Feb. 6)

Reading: D. McAdam, "Putting Donald Trump in Historical Perspective: Racial Politics and Social Movements from the 1960s to Today." In *The Resistance*, pp. 27-53


Topics: mainstreaming "extremist" movements; outsider and insider politics; review

**MIDTERM EXAM, February 11, and case study bibliographies due.** Study questions will be available on Canvas, https://canvas.ucsd.edu

### III. Trends in Social Movement Activity

A. Overview (Feb. 13)

"Stonewall Uprising," documentary on early gay rights movement

B. Towards "Identity Politics?" (Feb. 18 - 20)

Reading: A. Ghaziani, V. Taylor, and A. Stone, "Cycle of Sameness and Difference in LGBT Social Movements." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42 (2016): 165–83. Available through Roger (do a title search for the journal, then navigate to volume number and article)


Topics: collective identity as a social movement goal; performing identities; identity wars; collective memory and social movements

C. From Political Protest to Conscientious Consumerism? (Feb. 25 - 27)


"Buyer Be Fair," documentary on Fair Trade

Topics: pursuing social change, one purchase at a time; can we buy our way to a better world?

D. New Ways to Organize, Participatory and Digital (March 3 - 5)


**IV. Winning and losing** (March 10 - 12)


Topics: Explaining outcomes; varieties of success; review

**FINAL EXAM, March 17, 3pm.** Study questions will be available on Canvas, https://canvas.ucsd.edu