

Anthropology of Social Movements (ANP 321)
ANP 321, M/W 10:20 – 11:40 pm

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Course Summary

In this course, we will analyze social movements, or networks of people with similar goals for the future, and how they attempt to make change in societies. We begin with an analysis of the structure of organizations, including leadership, membership, and shared visions. Using the work of anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, and historians, we will study past and present social movements including the civil rights movement, the nonviolence and positive peace movement, the human rights movement, Black Lives Matter, and the White Nationalist Movement. We will study how and why people join networks and discover shared visions for the future, and what role morality plays in determining in- and out-group organization.

As we begin to study the shared visions or changes that social movements attempt to attain, we will research grassroots efforts where change has already taken place. We will use these case studies to analyze the role that social networks, social class, religion, language, forms of leadership, and geography play in the success of social movements.

Instructional Objectives

By the end of this course you will learn:

Multiple understandings of social movements

Lifecycle of social movements

Relationships between activists, NGOs, governments

Social movements in the media

This course has been designed to address the following Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Analytical Thinking

Cultural Understanding

Effective Citizenship

Required Texts and Resources

Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason, and the Gap Between Us and Them. Joshua Greene, Penguin Books, 2013.

SolutionsU: *SolutionsU* is an online learning platform that supports solutions-focused teaching and learning about society's challenges. It is powered by a database of more than 2,000 solutions journalism stories. You will each create your own *SolutionsU* account at the beginning of the semester, and you will be accessing and creating materials on [SolutionsU](#) throughout the semester.

Assignments

SolutionsU Assignment, Part I: Underlying Causes of Social Problems: 10%

This assignment in Week Six provides you with the opportunity to link Joshua Greene’s organizing metaphors in his argument for a “common moral currency” to real-life examples of people working to solve problems caused by moral conflict. Using *SolutionsU*, you will each identify three articles about solutions to problems caused by either the “Tragedy of the

Commons” or the “Tragedy of Commonsense Morality,” or both. You will each create your own story collection on *SolutionsU*, which we will learn how to do in Week Five. You will share your collections with each other on D2L in Week Six. A full description of this assignment is available on D2L. This assignment is designed to deepen your understanding of Greene’s argument and provide you with additional context for our exploration of social movements throughout the rest of the semester. We will revisit and complete this assignment the last week of class.

SolutionsU Story Collections: Discussion Questions: 35%

You will read “collections” of solutions journalism stories that I created specifically for our class based on topics and themes we will cover throughout the semester. I have included discussion questions with each collection intended to guide your reading and enhance your understanding of these stories and how they relate to our analytical thinking, cultural understanding and effective citizenship learning goals. You will access these collections via *SolutionsU*, and post your answers to the questions on D2L. You can earn up to 5 points each week (3 points for your post, 1 point each for responding to 2 classmates’ posts).

SolutionsU Assignment, Part II, Underlying Causes of Social Problems: 5%

This assignment takes you back to the collection of stories you created in Week Six on the *Underlying Causes of Social Problems*. You will revisit your collection and analyze your three stories from the perspective of “Deep Pragmatism.” You will have the opportunity to revise the summary you wrote in Week Six, and you will add three discussion questions that explore the stories from the perspective of Greene’s argument for “Deep Pragmatism.” A full description of this assignment is available on D2L.

Mid-Term Exam: 20%

In-class midterm exam using a blue book.

Final Project - Civic Engagement: 20%

This assignment serves as a space to link the themes and analytics in the course to emerging social movements. **You must turn in a proposed topic by November 6th.** Find a social movement that you are interested in, preferably one with a local presence. Your assignment is to attend at least one meeting, interview someone in a position of leadership, trace the lifecycle of the social movement, and give us your analysis of the efficacy of the movement. Your analysis should address the following questions: What was the historical, political, social, and economic context? What is the problem or issue that they are trying to change? Who are/were the key players? How did you learn of the movement? What role does the media and/or other representation play in covering the movement? How does the group measure outcomes? Make an argument whether or not you believe that the movement has the potential to make lasting change. A full rubric will be available on D2L by September 25. This paper should be 8-10 pages. I will use TurnItIn to evaluate your papers for content, originality, and grammar.

Course Schedule (tentative and subject to change):

Week 1 August 30: Why are we here
Review syllabus, expectations

Intro to *SolutionsU*

Sustainable Development Goals

Week 2 September 4 (no class) and 6: Anthropology and Social Movements

Gibb, *Toward an Anthropology of Social Movements*

Lichterman - *Ethnography and Social Movements*

Week 3 September 11 and 13: What divides us

Greene - Introduction through Chapter 3

SolutionsU Story Collection: What Divides Us

Week 4 September 18 and 20: What brings us together

SolutionsU Story Collection: What Brings Us Together

Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Rifkin - Video Empathetic Civilization TED Talk

Film: 99%: The Occupy Wall Street Collaborative Film (show on Wednesday)

Week 5 September 25 and 27: Life Cycle of Social Movements

From Emergence - Coalescence - Bureaucratization – Counter movements - Decline - Outcomes

Barash - Selected readings

Greene - Part 2 (Chapters 4-5)

Guest Lecture: Mark Auslander, Director MSU Museum

Week 6 October 2 and 4: From bystander to participant to leader

Bornstein - Why 'Solutions Journalism' Matters, Too

Esquith - Reframing the Responsibilities of Bystanders through Film

Greene - Part 3 (Chapters 6-8)

SolutionsU Assignment, Part I

Guest Panel

Week 7 October 9 and 11: Human Rights Movements

Kushner - *The Masked Avengers: how Anonymous incited online vigilantism from Tunisia to Ferguson*

Lowery - *Black Lives Matter: birth of a movement* (The Guardian)

Sachs - *The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter*

Film: *The Square* (Arab Spring)

Week 8 October 16 and 18: Midterm

Oct 16 midterm, no class October 18

Week 9 October 23 and 25: Environmental Movements

SolutionsU Story Collection: Environmental Movements

Week 10 October 30 and November 1: Economic Movements

SolutionsU Story Collection: Economic Movements

Greene - Part 4 (Chapters 9-10)

Week 11 November 6 and 8: Nonviolence and Political Movements

Final Project Topic Due

Selections from Barash - Approaches to Peace (Choose 3: Thoreau, Tolstoy, Camus, Gandhi, Nye, Dalai Lama, Tutu, Solnit, Goodwin)

SolutionsU Story Collection: Political Movements

198 Methods of Nonviolent Action

Guest Lecture: Meta Peace Team

Week 12 November 13 and 15: CSR to Social Entrepreneurship to Social Innovation

SolutionsU Story Collection: CSR to SocEnt to SocInn

Week 13 November 20 and 22: Creating powerful networks

Della Porta and Tarrow, Transnational Processes and Social Activism: An Introduction

Boli and Thomas - NGOs

Kriesberg - Social Movements and Global Transformation

Keck and Sikkink - Advocacy Networks and International Society

Week 14 November 27 and 29: Social Movements and the Internet

Garcia - The New Great White Hope White Nationalist Discourses of Saul Canelo Alvarez

Wired - Welcome to the Wikipedia of the Alt Right

Kidd & McIntosh, Social Media and Social Movements

Week 15 December 4 and 6: Deep Pragmatism - Seek Agreement in Shared Values

Greene - Part 5 (Chapters 11-12) - "This is the essence of deep pragmatism: to seek common ground not where we think it ought to be, but where it actually is."

SolutionsU Assignment, Part II

Final projects due in to the Dropbox on D2L by 9:45am, Friday, Dec 15th