



# SOC 350

## Activism and Social Change

S1 External 2014

*Sociology*

### Contents

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|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <u>General Information</u>     | 2 |
| <u>Learning Outcomes</u>       | 2 |
| <u>Assessment Tasks</u>        | 3 |
| <u>Delivery and Resources</u>  | 4 |
| <u>Unit Schedule</u>           | 5 |
| <u>Policies and Procedures</u> | 5 |
| <u>Graduate Capabilities</u>   | 7 |

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Social movements are an important presence in contemporary societies. How are they organised? Why do they emerge? What shapes their development? This unit provides a framework for answering these questions. It focuses on both the history of social activism, including campaigns like the suffragettes and civil rights movement through to the Arab Spring and climate campaigning; as well as prominent theories and concepts for understanding the rise and success of social movements. As part of the assessment students will examine a contemporary campaign, looking first hand at how movements organise and evaluating their success. This unit also allows students to progress to SOC351 where they have the opportunity to work in a placement with a social change organisation.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

identify the major theories developed to explain social movements

- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

## Assessment Tasks

| Name   | Weighting | Due            |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Reading Reflection</u></a>        | 20%       | End of Week 4  |
| <a href="#"><u>Campaign analysis outline</u></a> | 20%       | End of Week 8  |
| <a href="#"><u>Campaign analysis</u></a>         | 40%       | End of Week 13 |
| <a href="#"><u>Workshop participation</u></a>    | 20%       | Ongoing        |

### Reading Reflection

Due: **End of Week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

1 page (250 words) reflection based on one selection from weekly contributions to lecturer-moderated online forum (approx 200-300 words per week, ongoing weeks 1-4)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories

### Campaign analysis outline

Due: **End of Week 8**

Weighting: **20%**

Short (750 words) plan for campaign analysis

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change

## Campaign analysis

Due: **End of Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

2500 word report on current campaign or social movement event.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

## Workshop participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Attendance and participation in seminars or for external students in online fora (including work-in-progress presentation in week 12 or 13).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

## Delivery and Resources

**Class format:** Weekly 3-hour seminar with independent study and contributions to online discussion to support assessment tasks.

**Technologies used in this course:** Important information about the weekly topics, course readings and assessment are all available on the course iLearn page. If you do not have access, please contact IT help. You are required to check iLearn and your student email regularly for course updates and communications.

All compulsory readings will be available in the printed reader for purchase from the Co-Op Bookshop.

Recommended and further readings for each week are available through the [course e-reserve](#) page via the library website.

**What has changed:** A new topic in 2013 on 'career reflection' worked well and has been incorporated into the structure permanently. Requirements to present work-in-progress in weeks 12 or 13 were also successful, but may be reviewed in the initial weeks given growing student numbers. The integration of this unit and SOC352 has been improved and students will be given a clearer guide of what to expect if they continue into second semester's participation component.

## Unit Schedule

| Week | Topic   |
|------|---|
| 1    | <b>Introduction</b>   |
| 2    | <b>A Brief History of Social Action in Australia</b>                                    |
| 3    | <b>A Brief History of Think Tanks and Conservative Movements</b>                        |
| 4    | <i>Theories: Understanding Collective Action</i>  |
| 5    | <b>A Brief History of Global Justice</b>  |
| 6    | <i>Theories: Understanding New Social Movements (Incl. workshop on Action Research)</i> |
| 7    | <i>Strategies: Violence, Nonviolence and Direct Action</i>                              |
| 8    | <i>Strategies: Capturing the State (Labor and Green Parties)</i>                        |
| 9    | <i>Strategies: Labour and Organising (Strikes, Green Bans and YR@W)</i>                 |
| 10   | <i>Strategies: Pt1: Environmental Activism Pt2: Career Reflection Workshop</i>          |
| 11   | <i>Strategies: Using the Media (Alternative media)</i>                                  |
| 12   | <b>Social movements now! Arab Spring, Occupy, Austerity...</b>                          |
| 13   | <b>Conclusion</b>   |

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to

Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## **Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## **Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## **Student Services and Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## **Student Enquiries**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## **IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/hel>

p/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

#### Assessment tasks

- Campaign analysis outline
- Campaign analysis

### Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations

### Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them

competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations

## **Assessment tasks**

- Reading Reflection
- Campaign analysis outline
- Campaign analysis
- Workshop participation

## **Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

## **Assessment tasks**

- Reading Reflection
- Campaign analysis outline



- Campaign analysis
- Workshop participation

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- identify the major theories developed to explain social movements
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant theories
- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations
- design and execute primary research on a particular social movement campaign

### Assessment tasks

- Reading Reflection
- Campaign analysis outline
- Campaign analysis

## Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcome

- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change

## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Assessment task

- Workshop participation

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations

## Assessment task

- Campaign analysis

## Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- apply social movement theory to contemporary Australian and international movements
- analyse strategic and ethical problems that arise in the quest for political change
- reflect on practical realities of social movements through participation in activities of social movements and social movement organisations

## Assessment task

- Campaign analysis