



Module Title: Power, State and Social Movements 1

Module Code: SOU22041

Module Name: Power, State and Social Movements 1

- **ECTS Weighting: 5**
- **Semester/Term Taught: Michaelmas Term**
- **Contact Hours: 22**
- **Module Personnel: David Landy**

Module Learning Aims:

Power, State and Social Movements 1 focuses on social movements, seeking to understand what social movements are, how they work and what effects they have. The course explores a variety of social movements in Ireland and beyond, seeking to explain how people engage in forms of collective social action that seek to change society.

We ask what distinguishes social movements from mere protest groups. We study how social movements work and what they achieve. We examine particular social movements including prefigurative, solidarity and fascist movements. We also look at why people get involved and stay involved in movements dedicated to social change. There is a practical element to the course, with visiting speakers from social movements in Ireland discussing their own movement activities.

Module Learning Outcomes:

- Examine the processes of collective social action: recruitment, mobilisation, communication, organisation, and identity in movements
- Discuss key theoretical questions relating to social movements – the role of media and social media, co-option and repression, outcomes of social movements
- Apply this theoretical understanding to the practices of social movements in Ireland and elsewhere

Module Content:

- Theorising social movements
- Case studies of social movements
- Social movements and collective identity



- How movements operate –communication, actions, and organisation
- The effect of media and social media
- Effects of social movements – institutionalisation, co-option, and success

Recommended Reading List:

- Snow, David, Sarah Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds). 2007. *The Blackwell companion to social movements*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Staggenborg, Suzanne. 2017. *Social Movements*. Oxford. Oxford University Press
- Tarrow, Sidney. 2012. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tufekci, Zeynep. 2017. *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.

Module Pre-Requisite:

Module Co-Requisite:

Assessment Details:

Mid-term assessment – 20%

End of term exam – 80%

Module Website: