

SOU22041 Power, State and Social Movements 1

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU22041
Module Title	Power, State and Social Movements 1
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Senior Fresh
Module Personnel	David Landy
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	22 hours

Module Content	
Module Description	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
Module Learning Aims	Power, State and Social Movements 1 focuses on social movements, in order 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 are trying 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

Module Content	
	movements in Ireland discussing their own movement activities.
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
Indicative Reading / Resources	• Snow, David, Sarah Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds). 2007. <i>The Blackwell companion to social movements</i>. Oxford: Blackwell. • Staggenborg, Suzanne. 2017. <i>Social Movements</i>. Oxford. Oxford University Press • Tarrow, Sidney. 2012. <i>Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. • Tufekci, Zeynep. 2017. <i>Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest</i>. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Essay 20%, Exam 80%
Assessment Details	Mid-term assignment and end of term exam.

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	