

**SOAN 3130 Protest, Resistance, and Collective Action
Winter 2022
University of Guelph, Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

Instructor:	Dr. L. Kowalchuk
Class Location:	TBA
Class Format:	“Blended”
Class Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 to 2:20 (Tuesday in person; Thursday by Zoom)
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Office:	MacKinnon 645
Office Hours:	Thursday 2:30 to 4:00, virtual

Course Content and Objectives

Forms of collective action encompass protest as well as other less disruptive ways in which ordinary people collectively pursue or defend their values, well-being, and interests. Stories about one or another type of social movement are ubiquitous in print, broadcast, and internet-based news media, and most people have taken part in, observed, or read about some form of collective action aimed at social, political, economic or other kind of change. Given that social movements are so prevalent and have been the drivers of much social transformation, why do most people understand so little about them, starting with the very term itself? This course addresses this deficit in understanding and analysis.

One of the aims of the course is to give students a good foundation in the main theories that scholars have employed to understand social movements. The course will consider the usefulness of these theories in relation to several different types of social movements including those that resist oppression rooted in race/ethnicity, gender, and other subordinated identity categories; climate and the environment; and political democracy. This means we will be looking at movements Indigenous movements in North America, movements for climate justice, the movement for Black Lives, LGBTQ+ activism, and pro-democracy movements. In readings and lectures, there will be considerable international focus, but Canada and North America will feature prominently.

Required Readings

- ❖ Rodgers, Kathleen. 2017. *Protest, Activism, and Social Movements*. Canada: Oxford University Press. Available through the University’s campus bookstore.
- ❖ Broad, Robin and John Kavanagh. 2021. *The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed*. Boston: Beacon Press. Available as an e-book at a special discounted rate for our class. Request link from Prof Kowalchuk in advance of W22 semester if interested in starting to read the book early.
- ❖ A small set of academic articles, and audio and video materials available online via ARES and CourseLink)

Evaluation

(NOTE: These assignments and their weights may be modified prior to the start of the W22 semester)

In-class quizzes	20%
Mid-term exam	25%
Book review	25%
Final take-home exam	30%