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ARTS3820

How to start a revolution: activism, social movements
and political change

Term Two // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Nick Apoifis	n.apoifis@unsw.edu.au		MB 144	93852407

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

How to start a revolution and change the world? In a world of growing inequality, environmental pollution, and conflict this question seems more important than ever. In this course, you examine this question from a Politics and International Relations perspective, examining processes of, and the actors involved in, political change. From the #metoo movement, to Black Lives Matter, to the Alt Right, to the Arab spring protests and Occupy and Indignado movements: all around the world citizens are mobilising, some because they want political change, others because they want to maintain the status quo. What is change? Why do some people want radical and others moderate change? What explains the success of advocates for non-change, i.e. the status quo? What *kind* of change do political actors seek to achieve? In this course you will further explore these questions comparing processes of political change and actors involved in generating political change in Australia and other countries around the world. You will learn about the role of power, legitimacy, and insider and outsider positions in making political change work (or not). You will leave this course with a better understanding of what political change is, how it can be achieved, and what your own role can be in changing the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe and evaluate the main theories and concepts used in the study of political change
2. Critically evaluate and contrast research about processes of political change and actors involved in political change (and non-change) in national and international contexts
3. Explain the contested nature of political inquiry and the dimensions of ethical scholarship in the disciplines of Politics and/or International Relations in relation to processes of political change and non-change.

Teaching Strategies

The learning activities for this course are selected to support you in strengthening your capacity for (a) critical, independent thinking; (b) research skills and (c) reflecting on your own position in the world. Processes of political change and non-change are never value-neutral, and therefore we will be reflecting both on your own position and views on political change; as well as seek to position different strands of research on political change to help you understand why different researchers come to different conclusions.

The seminars are set-up to actively engage you in discussion and reflection, focusing on the application of knowledge to real-world cases. You will learn to reflect critically on processes of political change and non-change, the variety of actors involved in political change and non-change, and the strategies used to achieve political change. Research skills are also explicitly addressed in the seminars.

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines, this course has been designed to engage you in learning through informed seminar discussion based on guided reading and independent research, and to provide meaningful and timely feedback to your work.

Feedback on instructors will be sought throughout the course in informal interactions with students, and written feedback will be sought half-way through the “continue, stop, do more” exercise. This feedback as well as the feedback from MyExperience will be used to adapt the course where necessary.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	45%	Not Applicable	1,2
Case Study: Group Work	30%	Not Applicable	2
Critical reflection	25%	Not Applicable	3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date:

Details:

You will submit a 2500-word research essay. Questions are set by the course convenor. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Case Study: Group Work

Start date:

Details:

This is a group task. Your group will submit a 2000 word case study. You will be asked to rate your fellow group members' participation and contribution on a scale of 1-10 using a confidential online survey. All students in the group will receive the same grade for the assignment, however if any group member's participation and contribution is rated lower than 7 (by students or the course convenor) then their grade will be moderated accordingly by the convenor. This will be clearly communicated to you at the start of the trimester. The case study will be submitted through moodle and you will receive written feedback and a marked rubric within ten working days of submission

Assessment 3: Critical reflection

Start date:

Details:

You will submit a 1500 word critical reflection based on your experience (s) attending a meeting/event

organised by a political organisation or collective (including but not limited to political parties, social movement groups, ngo's, and other activist collectives). This attendance will occur during the term. Your convenor will provide assistance regarding these events.

You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards.

Attendance Requirements

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 0: 25 May - 29 May		See Moodle
Week 2: 8 June - 12 June		See Moodle
Week 3: 15 June - 19 June		See Moodle
Week 4: 22 June - 26 June		See Moodle
Week 5: 29 June - 3 July		See Moodle
Week 6: 6 July - 10 July		See Moodle
Week 7: 13 July - 17 July		See Moodle
Week 8: 20 July - 24 July		See Moodle
Week 9: 27 July - 31 July		See Moodle
Week 10: 3 August - 7 August		See Moodle

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Not available

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.