

Department of Anthropology

**ANTHRO 2293F-001: Rights, Resistance, and the Anthropology of Social
Movements**

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2025

Date: July 9, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Jameelah Morris

Method of delivery: In Person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the study of collective protest and social movements, exploring how people organize to resist or promote social change. Drawing on insights from anthropology, Black Studies, sociology, and political theory, we examine how movements emerge, who participates in them, how they feel, what challenges they face, and how they shape society and everyday life. Overall, this course asks: What are social movements? Where do they come from? What are their consequences for individuals, institutions, and state policies? Why, how, and to whom do social movements matter?

We begin with anthropological conceptions of race and collective identity, the state, and foundational conceptions of power and resistance. From there, we turn to case studies from the Americas to explore how marginalized communities have mobilized against state violence, territorial dispossession, and exclusion from national belonging. Through these case studies, we pay particular attention to how Black and Indigenous political organizing engages memory, land, autonomy, and transnational solidarity, often through strategies that unsettle our assumptions about what a "movement" is. Topics include gendered and racial violence, the environment, policing, revolutionary legacies, borders, and surveillance.

Course materials include scholarly texts, films, and public scholarship (ie. interviews, news articles, blogs, public essays). Assignments emphasize collaboration and critical engagement: students will complete a group case study research project connecting course themes to (recent) historical and current events, weekly quizzes, online assignments, and a final exam.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook

Required readings and other material will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Evaluation:

Please note that assessments may be subject to change

Grades will be based on the following activities:

10% Weekly Quizzes

There will be 12. The lowest two scores will be dropped. These are meant to encourage your reading of the assigned materials as well as generate a productive start to our class discussions.

20% Unit Assignments

At the end of each Unit (5 total) you'll complete an exercise designed to engage you with the unit topic. Most will be completed through OWL and may involve short supplemental readings or videos, followed by questions. Exercises are graded for accuracy, completion and relevance to the prompts. There are no make-up assignments.

40% Group Case Study Research Project (details will be shared on the first day of class)

- 20% Individual written sections
- 20% Group Research and In Class Presentation

30% Final Exam (mixed format)

There will be a cumulative final exam that explores key themes of the course material. More details about the format of the final exam will be discussed in class and posted on Brightspace. The final exam will be held during the December exam period, on a date to be assigned by the Registrar's Office.

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