

**Erasmus course**  
**Social Movements and Culture:**  
**Art, Language and Media as Collective Power**

**General Information**

Code	ER04_2019R
Course title	Social Movements and Culture: Art, Language and Media as Collective Power
Course level	Undergraduate / Graduate
Course type	Academic
Field of study	Arts
Author of the course	Aleida Bertran
Course Instructor	Aleida Bertran
ECTS Credits	3
Language of Instruction	EN
Abstract	The changes in paradigms of the new millennium have created a polarised approach to contemporary society: individualism against collectivism. Populist political trends, neo-liberalism and mass cultural consumption have raised the awareness of the power of cultural collective action for social change. Throughout history, social movements have evolved according to their context. Since the last few decades, artistic performance, museums and social media have become platforms for giving voice to national identity, class, gender and ethnic struggles. Broadening the knowledge on social movements enables a socio-political macro-analysis of society and an understanding of new uses of art and technology, as well as their role on the construction of a globalised society.
Aim and objectives of the course	The aim of this course is to explore the different dimensions and key areas of social movements while developing critical thinking towards the power of collective action. The course will draw upon Anthropology and Sociology theories that will be illustrated with contemporary cross-cultural case studies, including the Baltic Singing Revolution.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	The course will consist of a series of lectures covering a broad range of perspectives on social movements. Participation during the class is compulsory for students. Regarding the course examination, students will write a research paper on a case study related to their culture and will share the results in an oral presentation.
Literature	<u>Recommended</u>  Carty, V. (2015) <i>Social Movements and New Technology</i> . 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. New York: Routledge  Girling, J. (2004). <i>Social Movements and Symbolic Power: Radicalism, Reform and the Trial of Democracy in France</i> . 1st ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

	<p>Janes, R. and Sandell, R. (2019). <i>Museum Activism</i>. 1st ed. New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Juris, J. (2015) 'Embodying Protest: Culture and Performance within Social Movements' in Baumgarten, B. et al. (ed.) <i>Conceptualizing Culture in Social Movement Research</i>. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 82-104.</p> <p>Roggeband, C. and Klandermans, B. (2017). <i>Handbook of Social Movements Across Disciplines</i>. 2nd ed. Amsterdam: Springer.</p> <p>Šmidchens, G. (2014) <i>The Power of Song: Nonviolent National Culture in the Baltic Singing Revolution</i>. Seattle: University of Washington Press.</p> <p>Snow, D. and Soule, S. (2010). <i>A Primer on Social Movements</i>. New York: Norton.</p> <p>Snow, D., Soule, S. and Kriesi, H. (2004). <i>The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements</i>. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.</p> <p>Tarrow, S. (2013). <i>The Language of Contention: Revolutions in Words 1688-2012</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>
Course prerequisites	No previous knowledge in the fields of Sociology or Anthropology is required.

### **Course Outline**

Theme
Introduction to social movements: perspectives on the concept of community
Cultural dimensions of social movements: an anthropological and sociological approach
Symbolic power in social movement culture
The language of social movement culture
Performance and social movements
Social media and social movements
Museum representation and social movements
Student presentations on social movements of their local culture

### **Expected learning outcomes and their assessment**

Learning outcome	Assessment methods
Development of abstract thinking.	Evaluation of participation in class (10%)
Enhancement of critical thinking.	Evaluation of participation in class (10%)
Analysis of pictures and texts related to social movements.	Evaluation of participation in class (10%)
Academic skills in research paper writing and oral presentations.	Evaluation of written and oral academic production (70%)

### **Requirements for credit points**

Participation in class.
Writing a research paper and presenting it in an oral presentation.