Course Description: Three years after the 2008 financial crisis a protest movement sparked in Tunisia, and expanded by contagion to Egypt, Morocco and India, and from there to Spain, Chile, Israel, and finally arrived to Wall Street, giving the name to the global movement as the Occupy social movement. These cases largely differ from one another, but have in common their opposition to inequality and readiness to struggle against it. The course will focus on the comparison of protest movements and the political processes each case provoked, using theories of social movements and political sociology, and analyzing the economic, social and political context before the protests sparked and the after movements’ peaks. We will analyze and discuss in class the Occupy Wall Street movement and the political process it provoked in the US. Each student will chose an international case for comparison, presenting it in class and writing a research paper of their own as a final essay. Students will work in teams of two for their presentations and final research paper.

General Course Requirements: All students are expected to attend class, do the readings, and participate in class discussions. At the beginning of the third week students will present an initial brief research proposal. At the end of week five they will write one mid-term take home exam analyzing how the theories studied in class can be used in order to develop their own research project. The research project will include writing a research proposal, including a brief description of the case, the research question, the theory to be used, and initial bibliography. During the quarter students will comment on the readings based on their own research project. In the last week students will do a 20 minutes presentation of their research in class. Following the discussions in class, the comments and suggestions after the presentation, students will write a final research report.

Grading: The mid-term exam will be 30% of the final grade. The research proposal will be graded 10%, the class presentation 20% and the research paper 40%. The mid-term grade is based on the individual student’s work.

Honor Principle: Examinations and the research paper will be conducted in accord with the principles of academic honor detailed in Dartmouth’s Organization, Regulations and Courses and in the Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities: I encourage students with disabilities, including “invisible” disabilities like chronic diseases, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities to discuss with me after class or during my office hours by the end of the second week of the term appropriate academic adjustments or accommodations that might be helpful to you. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Academic Skills Center may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

Part 1. Introduction to Movements of Protest

Part 2. Classical Theories and Case Study Selection


Part 3. On Politics


Part 4. Social Movements


Part 5. New Social Movements: Framing, Agency and Collective Identity


Part 6. The Context of Inequality Protests

Part 7. Occupy Movements

Part 8. Inequality Protests Around the World

Part 9. Student Presentations