Course number and title: HON-H 400 Social Movements (3 cr.)
Class number: 33965
Meeting time and location: M 1:25-3:45 p.m., Education 1201
Instructor: Beate Sissenich, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Gender Studies

- Course meets with POLS-Y 490
- **Course is open ONLY to HHC students with junior or senior standing**
- Course carries Intensive Writing credit in the College of Art & Sciences
- Course counts as a 3-credit HON-H course for the General Honors Notation

**Course description:**

Protests and social movements arise in virtually all political systems, no matter how democratic or repressive. In this seminar, we will explore why movements emerge when they do, what forms they take, and what outcomes they produce. What does it take to generate sustained political contention? What makes individuals join protests? And why do some situations not generate any contentious action at all, even if they seem to cry out for mass protest? Why are some movements local, while others spread across many countries?

We will explore social movements primarily through the lens of health activism. Case studies include abortion activism, breast cancer activism, AIDS activism, the women’s self-help movement in health, the movement against gender violence, protest against female genital mutilation, and activism concerning environmental health. Readings will be interdisciplinary, drawing on political science, gender studies, sociology, history, and anthropology. We will investigate how health policy and service delivery become politicized and how communities in need have gone about obtaining health services. We will similarly look at how health professionals and scientists become activists and how activists in turn challenge access to authoritative knowledge. Our case studies will come from around the globe, including both advanced capitalist economies and less developed countries. Beyond health activism, we will draw on materials about the recent worldwide wave of protests against authoritarian regimes and capitalism; students are free to select any social movement for their research project.

**Course requirements:**

Students will be responsible for reading 80-100 pages of challenging social science research per week; completing frequent writing assignments that build toward a course paper; attending regularly; participating actively in class; keeping up with current news on our topic; and producing a research paper of roughly 5000 words.