This course will consider the dynamics of political protest on campuses. We will examine a variety of precursor and contemporary student movements that have challenged gendered and racial injustice and violence on campus; U.S. militarism; apartheid; political and religious repression; university investments, budgets, and workplace issues; governance and diversity policies; gender, race, and class inequities; tuition hikes, student debt, and privatization; LGBTQ rights and academic speech, etc. The struggle to establish resource centers, expand access, and develop area and ethnic studies will additionally be discussed.

This course will further look at student mobilizations in a variety of locales within and outside of the U.S., such as the 1930’s New Negro Campus Movement, Students for a Democratic Society, and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, as well as student movements in Chile, Mexico, France, China, and Iran. We will also probe organizational linkages and legacies for contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter. We will analyze various forms of protest including teach-ins, occupations, die-ins, strikes, and international solidarity work-study brigades. The following questions are to serve in guiding our discussions: How have students, faculty, and staff helped to remake the university? How have the politics of race, gender, class, and sexuality shaped campus movements? What international, national, and local events, identity politics, student cultures, and university policies have produced or silenced campus protest and discontent? What strategies, ideologies, alliances, and official and state repression characterize or accompany student mobilizations?

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