Unit Description
Britain has a long and vibrant history of ‘grass roots’ social protest, political activism that interacted with, while remaining outside, the arena of mainstream politics. This lecture response unit explores the nature of this phenomenon by considering the relationship between individual activism, organised protest and government reaction to and regulation of key movements in modern British history. The unit will be divided into two halves, dealing with the ‘old’ social movements of the nineteenth century and the ‘new’ movements of the twentieth century, the post second world war period in particular. As such, it will draw upon and critique recent theoretical literature on social movements. Social protest in relation to race, class and gender will be analysed using conventional historical sources as well as the rich cultural sources produced by a diverse range of movements from Abolitionists to radical environmentalists.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour interactive lectures,

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3000 word essay (50%), 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Essential Reading:
A. Lent, *British Social Movements since 1945* (2001)
P. Byrne, *Social Movements in Britain* (1997)

Further Information
There is a Blackboard site for this unit