Social protest and unrest provide us with examples of popular organizing and direct political participation. Urban life serves as a fertile breeding ground for civic associations and sociopolitical discourse. Social consciousness originating in the urban center have contributed greatly to the formation of “third sector” organizations. Such non-profit entities provide essential services, encourage political diversity and engender social capital.

This course identifies the role of urban social movements in forming larger third sector organizations. In doing so, the historical trajectory of urban protest and activism will be considered for its role in the organizational development resulting from Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ Rights, the Civil Rights Movement, Occupy Wall Street, Qanon, the Tea Party and many more.