SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
SOCIOLOGY 4355
FALL 2009

INSTRUCTOR: MERYL G. NASON
OFFICE: GR 2.612
TELEPHONE: (972) 883-6722
OFFICE HOURS: MW 12:30-2PM; R 315-3:45PM and by appt.
E-MAIL: Mnason@UTDallas.edu
Note: I do NOT use WEBCT for e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the sociological analysis of collective behavior and social movements. In the early part of the course we examine and present theories to explain elementary forms of collective behavior, such as rumors, crowds, panics, and fads that are a source of social change. The main portion of the course focuses on recent American social movements. We begin by examining theories of social movements and then draw from these perspectives to analyze a variety of contemporary social movements. to familiarize students with scholarly research and theories pertaining to the study of collective behavior and social movements.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. to familiarize students with scholarly research and theories pertaining to the study of collective behavior and social movements.
2. to familiarize students with a variety of collective behavior phenomena and with a number of recent American social movements;
3. to introduce students to research methods that allow them to apply the sociological perspective to understand contemporary social movements;
4. to encourage students to understand the significance of social movements and collective behavior processes for social change and to encourage them to examine their relevance for their own lives.

COURSE TEXTS:


ELECTRONIC RESERVE

In an effort to reduce costs, I have placed a large number of required articles on electronic reserve. The URL is:

CLASS Format AND INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS:

The format will be lecture/discussion with the addition of visiting speakers and films. The instructor of this course makes several assumptions about the students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

1. **Attend class on a regular basis.**

2. **Be prepared for class** (i.e., have a writing instrument and paper or a computer in your possession; have read the assigned materials prior to class).

3. **Participate in class.** Students are expected to actively participate and will be assigned a grade for participation (10% of final grade). If something is covered in lecture or in the text or readings which you do not understand, **ASK A QUESTION** (chances are at least one or more of your colleagues will have the same or similar question). You will be held responsible for the assigned materials on the examinations, so it is in your best interest to ask questions.

4. **Be present and prepared for all examinations.** The term “prepared” in this context means not only having studied the materials you are to be tested on and showing up at the appropriate time, but also having a **BLUE BOOK, SCANTRON, and a Blue or Black Pen in your possession on the day of the exam**.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams each worth 200 points</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL POSSIBLE</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
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1. **Exams:** There will be three examinations for the course, the first the week of September 28th (take home portion due, in class portion), the second the week of November 2nd (take home portion due, in-class portion) and the third the week of December 7th (take home portion due, in class portion). Each will count 20% toward the final grade.

2. **Research Project:** Students will be required to complete a paper analyzing one social movement. The project should be a minimum of 10 pages in length and is worth 30% toward the final grade. (More information on the paper is available). Paper topics are due September 21st and papers are due November 23rd. The paper will **NOT** be accepted **LATE**.
3. **Participation:** Class participation will be worth 10% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly and come prepared.

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not taking an exam or completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an Incomplete grade in the course. You MUST either telephone or e-mail me on the day of an exam if you will be absent in order to discuss the possibility of a makeup. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive a “0” for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. Students who request Incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author’s work or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Undergraduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code.

Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of “0” (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

**RESEARCH PROJECT**

Each student is required to complete a research project which will be worth 30% of your final grade. Each student will select a social movement of his/her choice to analyze. The paper will be due on November 23rd. It will **NOT** be accepted **LATE**. Further information and guidelines will be available in a separate handout.
CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/24-8/26</td>
<td>COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR</td>
<td>Staggenborg (S): Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Goodwin and Jasper (GJ): Chapter 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR (continued)</td>
<td>TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS</td>
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<td>No class, Monday September 7th</td>
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<td>Paper topic due: Wednesday, September 9th</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>TRADITIONAL APPROACHES (continued)</td>
<td>THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENTS</td>
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<td>9/7-9/9</td>
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<td>波尔和斯内尔的《残疾人的权利运动》, 第 6 章。</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>S: Chapter 2, pp. 15-20.</td>
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<td>GJ: Chapters 5, 19</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENTS</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS</td>
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<td>Jo Freeman and Victoria Johnson. Chapter 2: Mobilizing the Disabled,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>pp. 25-47.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS:</td>
<td>POLITICAL PROCESS MODEL AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Kriesi, Chapter 6.</td>
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<td>S: Chapter 2, pp. 15-20.</td>
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<td>GJ: Chapters 5, 19</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
<td>EXAM I: Wednesday, September 30th</td>
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<td>9/28-9/30</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>FRAMING</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5-10/7</td>
<td>ER: Robert D. Benford and David A. Snow, “Framing Processes and Social</td>
<td>Annual Review of Sociology 2000, 26:611-639.</td>
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<td>Movements: An Overview and Assessment” Annual Review of Sociology 2000,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26:611-639.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>S: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>GJ: Chapters 6, 10 and 16</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS</td>
<td>NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS</td>
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<td>10/12-10/14</td>
<td>GJ: 35</td>
<td>S: Chapter 2, pp. 20-25.</td>
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<td>ER: Steven M. Buechler. “New Social Movement Theories” The Sociological Quarterly, Volume 36,</td>
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Week 9
10/19-10/21
THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
S: Chapter 4
GJ: Chapters 2, 7, and 24
SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE, MONDAY OCTOBER 19th

Week 10
10/26-10/28
THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT
S: Chapter 6
GJ: Chapters, 3, 11, 15 and 34

Week 11
11/2-11/4
EXAM II
EXAM II: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

Week 12
11/9-11/11
THE PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS
ER: Staggenborg—The PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT: Chapters 1, 2, 6, and 11
GJ: Chapter 14

Week 13
11/16-11/18
THE GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT
S: Chapter 7
GJ: Chapters 4 and 25.

Week 14
11/23-11/25
THE ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
S: Chapter 8
GJ: Chapters 8 and 21.
RESEARCH PROJECT DUE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

Week 15
11/30-12/2
RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

Week 16
12/7
EXAM III
EXAM III: MONDAY, DECEMBER 7th.
This schedule is tentative and will be modified as necessitated by class discussions and outside speakers.

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Please refer to the UTD syllabus website for more information concerning specific UTD policies and regulations for this course.
Course Paper Guidelines

Each student will write a ten page paper on a social movement topic of his/her choice. What do you want to learn about social movements? Sample topics include: what role, if any, do emotions play in motivating movement participation; what makes an effective movement leader; what makes politicians concede to movement demand; are movements more effective when they ally with other sympathetic movements or when they work on their own? Essentially, you need to answer a question about movements. You may include a description or history of a social movement. However, your primary goal is to explore a topic of theoretical interest to social movement scholars.

In addition, you are required to answer your particular theoretical question drawing upon evidence from one specific social movement. Any social movement is acceptable as long as it clearly fits the definition of a social movement. (Please check with me if you have questions about the acceptability of your particular movement.) For example, if you are interested in understanding why movements choose the strategies they do, you do research on strategies and then use a specific movement, like the anti-globalization movement or the suffrage movement, and then answer your question about movement strategies with evidence from that movement.

Your paper must rely upon at least two academic sources, either books or journal articles, which have not been used in the course. An academic source is written by scholars, rather than journalists, activists, or social movement organizations. Clues that a source is academic include being published by a university press, being written by authors affiliated with universities or research centers, or being from a peer reviewed journal. You may use non-academic sources in addition to, but not in place of, the two academic sources.

During the semester, you will hand in two smaller assignments to get you started on the paper. On September 9th, you need to bring to class a short, typed description of your paper (no more than a paragraph) and one academic reference that you plan to use. Your description must include the theoretical topic you will study and the social movement you will use as illustration. Also, please bring a copy of the actual reference—either the article or book—to class that day. On October 19th, you need to turn in a revised, page-long version of your paper with both academic references cited. We will discuss these assignments in class. Both smaller assignments are mandatory and will contribute to your final paper grade. Please type them. The final paper is due November 23rd. (See policy above for late penalties.)

Evaluation & Format

The final paper should be 10 pages (not including the reference page), typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins, and 10-12 point font. This format is required, not optional. I will accept longer papers. However, I will downgrade shorter one. I do not do this to be "mean," but to create papers that are comparable so I can be consistent across students and papers. You will be graded on writing quality as well as content. Write simply and clearly. Use correct spelling and grammar. Organize your argument. Your discussion will be clearer to you and to me if you write from a well-organized outline and edit your paper. If you need assistance, please visit the writing lab.

As mentioned above, plagiarism will not be tolerated and you are required to cite any ideas that are not your own. A correct citation requires you to cite the source within the text and to include a reference page with the full citation. If you put another author's idea into your own words, you need to include the author's last name and the date the article was published (e.g., McAdam 1988). If you use the author's exact words, those words need to be put in quotation marks and you need to provide the author's last name, the date of the article, and the page number (e.g., McAdam 1998: 35). Any format is acceptable for your reference page—just be consistent. We will discuss the paper assignment frequently.