Social Movements and Community Change

SO CI 360

Course Syllabus
Fall 201 5
Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Course webpage:
http://sociology.morrisville.edu/2015/fall/soci360

“I'm not interested in preserving the status quo; I want to overthrow it.”

— Niccolò Machiavelli

Course Description:
This interdisciplinary course examines social change through political advocacy and/or use of community resources. Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in SOCI 201 Social Problems, or permission of instructor. 3 credits (3 lecture hours), fall or spring semester. These credits count toward the Social Sciences (list C) requirements for graduation.

Course Overview:
“In all societies, present and historical, people have joined together to press for or against social change. When engaging in collective action, groups must make important decisions about the goals, tactics, and organizational strategies of the movement. Often external factors, including the response of the state, availability of external resources, and cultural factors, shape these movement dynamics. In this course we will be exploring all of these issues by examining both individual movements and theoretical explanations for movement processes. By the end of the course you should have a better sense of not only of the range of movements that exist, but the theoretical foundations used to examine social movement dynamics.” (Martin, 2004).

Course Outcomes: The successful student will be able to (1) describe particular examples of social movements, particularly regarding their effects on community and individual change; (2) explain the methodological issues involved in the study of social movements; (3) recognize and analyze various sociological perspectives and theories of social movements, particularly regarding their effects on culture and the individual; (4) engage in research on a particular social movement. Outcomes will be measured using the evaluation criteria identified in the syllabus, below.

Textbook and other requirements:

Available at the campus bookstore or at most online booksellers.

(2) Online resources will be available which you must download and read. These online sources include web-based PDF readings, HTML webpages, video, audio and other media on a regular basis. It is required that you print out or virtually mark-up readings and bring them to class, having annotated the material in the margins or in a separate notebook. Be sure to write notes on video/audio material as you watch/listen, and take notes when web pages are assigned. Specific sources will appear weekly on the course webpage.
Course Evaluation:
Attendance and Participation: 10%
Attendance of classes (see policy below) and contribution to discussions (related to the annotations to your readings) are required. You are allowed two absences, regardless of excuse, available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation.

Reading Reactions: 20%
All students are expected to complete the required readings prior to class. This will facilitate a lively in-class discussion on important topics raised in the readings. All students will periodically complete a short reaction to the weekly reading assignments. This reaction should include a summary/outline of the main theme(s) of the readings written as a brief (fewer than 500 word) email to the professor. Students are required to submit four reaction papers in total, which should be spread throughout the course. Students should be prepared to discuss their summary/outline of the readings in class. To receive full credit, the reaction must be emailed to me by 9:00 am on the morning of the first class of the week, so that I can have time to evaluate them prior to that week's discussion.

Research Paper: 30%
Students will be expected to write a ten-page research paper exploring a particularly critical challenge faced by a particular social movement during its life course. Some possible examples include: the difficulty of mobilizing constituents, the reality of state repression, or overcoming broader cultural barriers and stereotypes. Using social movement theories discussed in class, you will describe possible reasons for this challenge, how the movement sought to overcome it, and its implications on the overall functioning of the movement.

Exams and quizzes: 40%
A number of readings will be assigned from online sources, including online articles, chat logs, blogs, and discussion groups. Quizzes (10% of final grade) may be given at any time to test comprehension of the textbook readings and online resource assignments. Two exams (the midterm exam and the final exam, each 15% of final grade) will measure reading comprehension and analysis.

Summary of Grade Criteria

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 to 100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 to 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 to 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 to 86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 to 82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 to 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 to 76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 to 72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>68 to 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>61 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Percent / Letter / Grade Point Equivalents:

Note: These grading equivalents may be different for other classes. Check with each professor to see how they will calculate your grade.

Class Policies:
Class Participation and Attendance
- Attendance: Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. Missing any more than two classes impedes your work and may result in a lower grade. Attendance is taken daily and recorded. The absences allowed are for athletic events, serious and contagious illness or injury, family emergencies, snow days, car accidents, etc. It is expected that the absences allowed will satisfactorily cover the cases where absence is necessary. If they do not, please meet with the instructor during his office hours to explain your case. If you have too many absences and would like to have your case considered, please provide documentation of the reason for your absence, including date, evidence and explanation of the absence, in writing (not by e-mail or verbal agreement). As an incentive for good attendance, for each of the absences you are allowed that go unused, you will earn an extra bonus point toward the final grade. Also, if you attend every class before or after each semester break, one point will be added to your attendance score.
• **Classroom Norms:** You are attending class in a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. *Being on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Reddit, etc., playing games, texting and calls from friends or family, eating, sleeping, reading outside material, working on other classes’ assignments, using a laptop computer outside of class purposes, etc., are examples of uncooperative classroom behavior.* Talking in class is ok – however, it should be public, relate directly to the class conversation, should take the form of a textual argument or a relevant question, and should never preempt another speaker (one speaker at a time, please). RESPECT for the space of the classroom (this includes professor and fellow students) and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually talk to a friend to the point that it disturbs the students around you) the professor reserves the right to take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to lowering your grade or the asking you to leave the classroom. Please note that, in general, attendance of college classes is directly correlated to the grades that students receive, despite that it may not be noticeably or regularly enforced. If you want a higher grade, come to class and recognize these guidelines.

• **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early – people showing up very late (15 minutes or more), or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of emergencies only) will not be permitted to (re)enter the classroom. Every three instances of tardiness will result in one absence marked on the attendance sheet.

• **Plagiarism Rule:** Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any written assignment (including all electronic media) submitted by a student must be original authorship. Representation of another’s work as his or her own shall constitute plagiarism. See the student handbook for more information.

Plagiarism means theft of intellectual property, obtained from a print or electronic medium. A person has plagiarized if s/he quotes three or more words in sequence from a source and (1) doesn’t use quotation marks (“The quick brown fox…”), and (2) doesn’t identify the source (what is known as “citation”). A person has also plagiarized if s/he records or cites ideas, information, or other material from a source that is not identified, or if the individual paraphrases information from a source that is not acknowledged. The penalty for plagiarism could be failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or even expulsion from the college. *Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.*

**Late/Make-up Assignment/Extra Credit Policy:**

- **Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me more than 24 hours (1 day) in advance of the exam. If you miss an exam without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

- **Quizzes:** You cannot make up *any* quizzes more than one week after they have been given. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you cannot make arrangements to take a quiz within one week of it being initially given.

- **Papers:** Written assignments will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in up to ONE WEEK after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10% of a point scale). No written assignments will be accepted after the one week late period.

- **Extra credit:** I do not give extra credit assignments to individuals – any extra credit will be on a class-wide basis (and there is no guarantee of ANY extra credit assignments in any given semester).

**Students with Learning and/or Physical Challenges**

If you are a student with a documented disability, who wishes to use academic accommodations you should (1) speak with me during the first two weeks of class. This two-week time frame is to encourage students to arrange accommodations early in the semester. Students with disabilities may arrange accommodations at any point during the semester.

(2) **Talk with David Symonds,** Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities to arrange your test accommodations. You may reach David by e-mail at symondda@morrisville.edu, or visit him (by appointment please) at his office in the Library.

(3) **Using Test Accommodations:** If you wish to use test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the class before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student and the instructor.
□ Week 1
Aug 25, 27: Introduction to Sociology and Social Movements
Purchases textbook and review table of contents, preface, and glossary
Watch Social Movements: A Primer (TEDx Talk, Youtube, 19 min)
Read “Social Movements” entry at Wikibooks website:

□ Week 2
Sept 1, 3: Introduction to Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook, Chapter 1, Conceptualizing social movements
Read Locher, Chp 1, What is Collective Behavior?

□ Week 3
Sept 8, 10: Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook Chp 2: From the mad to the sane
Read Locher, Chp 2, Social Contagion Theory
Watch: US Holocaust Museum, The Path to Nazi Genocide

□ Week 4
Sept 15, 17: From contagion to norms; the input of sociology
Read Locher, Chp 3, The Emergent Norm Perspective
Read Locher, Chp 4, Value-Added Theory
Read: Gaffney, From Independence to Power: The Workers Movement from 1848 to 1917

□ Week 5
Sept 22, 24: Resources, Networks and Organization of Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook Chp 3, From the rational to the relational
Read Castells, Power of Identity, Network Society excerpts

□ Week 6
Sept 29, Oct 1: Political and Cultural Processes of Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook Chp 4, From political processes to cultural processes
Read Della Porta and Diani, Chp 3, The Symbolic Dimension of Collective Action
Watch: Greene, Crash Course in US History: Women’s Suffrage

□ Week 7
Oct 6, 8: Midterm Exam Thurs Oct 8

October Break: Oct 12, 13

□ Week 8
Oct 15: Social Movement Typologies
Read Locher, Chp 13, Social Movements
Week 9
Oct 20, 22: New Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook, Chp 5, From old to new social movements
Read Della Porta and Diani, Chp 3, The Symbolic Dimension of Collective Action
Read / watch clips of PBS American Experience website on the Civil Rights Movement

Week 10
Oct 27, 29: Globalization and Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook, Chp 6, From national to global social movements
Read Schaeffer, Social Movements and Global Social Change, Chp 1
Watch Chomsky, What is the WTO? (YouTube 26 min)
Watch The Battle In Seattle documentary trailer, (YouTube 8 min)

Week 11
Nov 3, 5: Race, Gender and Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook, Chp 8, From collective behavior to misbehaviour
Read Schaeffer, Social Movements and Global Social Change, Chp 2
Read Alicia Garza, A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter movement
Review BlackLivesMatter.com website
Read United Nations document, Gender and Urban Social Movements, Introduction

Week 12
Nov 10, 12: Environment and Social Movements
Watch CBS News interview with director of “Earth Days”
Read Reymers, The Country and the Grassroots (2009), excerpts
Read Gerlach, The Structure Of Social Movements: Environmental Activism And Its Opponents

Week 13
Nov 17, 19: Religion and Social Movements
Read Edwards textbook Chp 7, From the pretty to the ugly
Read The Atlantic, What ISIS Really Wants

Tues. Nov 24: Religion and Social Movements
Continue The Atlantic, What ISIS Really Wants

November Break: Nov 25-27

Week 14
Dec 1, 3: Social Movements and Community Change
Read Edwards textbook Chp 9, Conclusion: the shifting terrain of social movements studies
Read Locher textbook Chp 14, Understanding Social Movements
Watch: Khan Academy, Social Movements - review

Week 15
Dec 8, 10: Final Exam Week