

Social Movements and Community Change

SOCI 360

Course Syllabus

Fall 2024

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

<http://brightspace.morrisville.edu> > SOCI360



Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Walk-In Office Hours: Mon & Weds: 1pm - 2pm;

Tues & Thurs: 10am-11am

Fri: No office hour

or by appointment

e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu

"A social movement that only moves people is merely a revolt. A movement that changes both people and institutions is a revolution."

– *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr., Chapter 20: March on Washington*

Course Description:

This course examines social change through political advocacy and/or use of community resources, with a focus on both specific social movements and theoretical explanations for movement processes. *Prerequisite:* Grade of "C" or better in SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology, or permission of instructor. *3 credits (3 lecture hours), fall semester. This course satisfies the Liberal Arts and Sciences requirement and the SUNY General Education Requirement for Social Science.*

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 the range of movements that exist, but the theoretical foundations used to examine social movement dynamics.

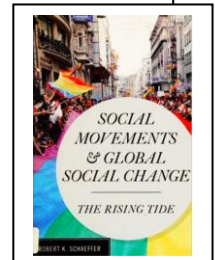
(adapted from Martin, 2004)

Course Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to (1) describe particular examples of social movements, particularly regarding their effects on both community and individual-level 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 or a project on a particular social movement. Outcomes will be measured using the evaluation criteria identified in the syllabus.

Course reading requirements:

Online Educational Resources will be made available, which you should download and consume on the schedule provided. These online resources include web-based PDF readings, HTML webpages, video, audio and other media assigned on a regular basis. **It is expected that you print out or virtually mark-up readings; having annotated the material in the margins or in a separate notebook. Be sure to write notes about video/audio material as you watch/listen, and take notes when web pages are assigned.** These notes will be extremely valuable to you as you prepare for quizzes, exams, and research assignments. Specific sources will appear weekly in links on the course webpage and be found on the course schedule.



Course Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Attendance of classes (see policy below) and contribution to discussions (related to your notes on the textbook readings) make up part of your grade. You are allowed *two absences* available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. I hope you actively participate in this course at every meeting, because I have found it is the best way for you to engage in your learning.

Music Interpretations: 20%

In reflecting on the class topics, it's not hard to come up with an example of a social movements that has been translated into music. For this portion of the class grade, you will be asked to periodically complete a short reaction to the weekly reading assignments in the form of a "music interpretation."

These music interpretations involve you finding a song that you can interpret using the topics related in the assigned readings/videos. This reaction should include the lyrics of the song in question and an interpretation of how the meaning of the song relates to the movements we're studying each week written as **a brief, but concise (at least 250 word) description posted on the course Brightspace page.** Students are required to submit four music interpretations in total, which should be spread throughout the course (see course schedule).

Research Project: 30%

The project component will involve the analysis of a social movement. The project will be developed over several steps and should be related to the theoretical understanding of social movements discovered in your readings and class discussions. The project can take the form of: (1) a traditional research paper, (2) an audio/video presentation, or (3) a creative project (subject to permission of instructor). The paper will take the form of a 10-page, scholar-cited academic research paper. The audio/video must have at least 10 minutes of original content. More information will be given in class. The project must involve cited scholarly research on a social movement of your choice and tie into one of the theoretical frameworks we have discussed in class.

Homework, Exams and Quizzes: 40%

A number of readings will be assigned from online sources, including textbook readings, scholarly publications, online news, chat logs, blogs, and discussion groups. Homework questions (10% of final grade) will assess your reading comprehension. Quizzes (10% of final grade) are given roughly quarterly to test understanding of the readings and online resource assignments. Two exams (each 10% of the final grade) will measure longer-term reading comprehension and analysis.

Summary of Grade Criteria	% of course grade
- Attendance and Discussion Participation	10%
- Music Interpretations	20%
- Research Project	30%
- Weekly Homework, Exams and Quizzes	40%

Percent / Letter / Grade Point Equivalents:

93 to 100+ = A = 4.0	90 to 92 = A- = 3.67	87 to 89 = B+ = 3.33
83 to 86 = B = 3.0	80 to 82 = B- = 2.67	77 to 79 = C+ = 2.33
73 to 76 = C = 2.0	70 to 72 = C- = 1.67	68 to 69 = D+ = 1.33
60 to 67 = D = 1.0		
59 and below = F = 0.0		

Note: All professors' grading systems are unique.

The Norms of the Course:

Class Policies

- **Attendance:** Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. ***Missing more than two classes may impede your progress and 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. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences. 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.
- **Classroom Norms:** Norms are the product of culture; they happen when people get together in groups and decide on mutually agreeable behavior and expectations. Let’s create the classroom norms together as the course proceeds. They should be attuned and appropriate to meeting the course outcomes. I will be asking you throughout the semester not only about what you think the norms of the classroom should be, but also how to enforce them.
- **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early. Showing up LATE to class (after I have taken the attendance for the day, which I do on the classroom viewscreen) will earn you an L (late) in the gradebook. Every three instances of tardiness will result in one absence marked on the attendance sheet. People showing up VERY LATE (15 minutes or more), or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of emergencies or prearranged circumstances only) will be marked as absent for the day. Note, it is your responsibility to notify me if you come in late, otherwise you may be marked absent.
- **Weather Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, please pay attention to the college’s Class Cancellations webpage to see if the class is cancelled. If class is cancelled due to weather, or for other reasons, see the course website immediately for instructions on assignments, due dates, or other important and timely information.
- **Academic Honesty and the Plagiarism Policy:** 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...”), or (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 be given up to one-week post-exam, unless you arrange with me in advance of the exam. If you miss an exam without arranging to make it up, the grade defaults solely to the decision of the instructor.

Quizzes: You cannot make up *any* quizzes more than one week after they have been given. If you cannot arrange to take a quiz within one week of it being initially given, the grade defaults solely to the decision of the instructor.

Music Interpretations: You cannot make up the music interpretations more than one week after your specific due date for any of the four assignments. If received within this late period, a 20% (1/5 point) penalty will be exercised. If I receive a Brightspace submission or email with your interpretation more than one-week after the late period, the grade will be subject solely to the instructor's decision.

Research Projects: Research Project assignments will be due as scheduled but may be turned in after the due date with a penalty of one letter grade (or 10% on a point-based scale) per week. No written assignments will be accepted more than four weeks after the due date.

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

Morrisville State College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact Accessibility Services (AS) as soon as possible (asctesting@morrisville.edu, 315.684.6349). To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with Accessibility Services. AS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. If you wish to use their test accommodations for an exam please let me know the week before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day and time the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student, instructor, and AS. Even if you do not have a documentable disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center and the professor's office hours, are available to help all students.

Starfish

This course participates in the Starfish Early Alert System (accessible through Brightspace), an early intervention system designed to enable academic success, student persistence, and graduation. When an instructor observes student behaviors or concerns that may impede academic success, the instructor may raise an alert flag that 1) notifies the student of the concern, 2) requests an individual contact to discuss the issue, and 3) in most cases, refers the student to the academic advisor. If you receive an email notification of an early alert, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the issue. The purpose of the contact is to determine the severity of the issue, accurately assess its potential impact on your academic success, and to plan actions to prevent negative consequences and enable academic success. For more information about harnessing your success, contact your academic advisor.

Note that this schedule is **tentative and subject to change**; changes to the original schedule will be noted in **red**.

☐ **Week 1: Introduction to Sociology and Social Movements**

Aug 27

Familiarize yourself with the syllabus and course schedule and outline; understand your responsibilities for successfully completing this course.

Aug 29 (when I write "Read" or "Watch" below, I mean come to class having read/watched the assignments listed for that day; TAKE BRIEF NOTES on each reading or video assignment so you can remember when you get to class what you read/watched)

- 1.1) Read Schaeffer, [Social Movements and Global Social Change, Chp 1](#) (1-hour read)
- 1.2) Read [Chp 21, Introduction to Sociology, Social Movements](#) (click 'Next' on bottom of each page; 30 min read)
- 1.3) Watch [Lee, The Four Types of Social Movements](#) (2018, YouTube, 7 min)
- 1.4) Watch this introduction to the author of your book, [Robert Schaeffer](#) (2 min video, YouTube)

Sept 1

Submit [homework assignment 360A1](#) by end of week (Sunday at midnight)

Check Brightspace for further readings and assignments...