

Sociology of Social Movements SOC 3730-01
Sociology Department, William Paterson University
Spring 2017

Professor: Dr. Wendy Christensen
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11am-12pm
 Tuesdays 2-4pm and by appointment.
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If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together. –Aboriginal Activist Sister

Course Description:

Social movements occur when people break from their ordinary, everyday lives and try to make broad social change. This is a survey course on how people get together to gain power and try to change society. We will examine the social, cultural, and political forces that launch social movements, form the trajectory of movements, and shape counter-movements. To do this, we will learn about a number of such movements, both current and historical, focusing on how movements recruit members, decide on their tactics, create member commitment, mobilize resources (politicians, media), interact with authority (government, police), and how they connect with other social movements. Through case studies and classroom organizing workshops we will investigate first hand how social movements are formed, and what makes movements successful or unsuccessful.

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To introduce students to sociological theories to explain social movements;
- To acquaint students with the importance of their cultural and political contexts;
- To study recent U.S. social movements as models for understanding these concepts;
- To examine the social dynamics involving the evolution of a social movement;
- To examine patterns of organization and tactic employed by protest groups;
- To examine the outcomes of social movements and their impact on social change.

Required Text: You will not pass this course unless you purchase and read the text.

- Staggenborg, Suzanne. (2015) *Social Movements*. Oxford University Press. 2nd Edition.
(**Do not** purchase the “Themes in Canadian Sociology” of this book.)

Course Schedule:

Date	Readings	Assignments
Wednesday 1/18	Introductions	Register for Schoology with code: 5PSCK-6KWD2
<i>Social Movement Theory</i> Monday 1/23	Chapter 1: Introduction (pages 1-13)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>Social Movement Theory</i> Wednesday 1/25	Chapter 2: Theories of Social Movements and Collective Action (pages 14-30)	
<i>Studying Social Movements</i> Monday 1/30	Chapter 3: Issues in the Study of Social Movements and Collective Action (pages 31-57)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
Wednesday 2/1	Civic Engagement Planning Session 1	
<i>The Civil Rights Movement</i> Monday 2/6	Chapter 4: The Protest Cycle of the 1960s (pages 58-66)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The Civil Rights Movement</i> Wednesday 2/8	FILM: "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin"	
<i>The New Civil Rights Movement</i> Monday 2/13	"How Trayvon Martin's Death Launched a New Generation of Black Activism" by Mychal Denzel Smith (online)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The New Civil Rights Movement</i> Wednesday 2/15	FILM: "Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement"	
Monday 2/20	NO CLASS	
<i>Student Movements</i> Wednesday 2/22	Chapter 4: The Protest Cycle of the 1960s (pages 66-68)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
Thursday 2/23 Classes follow Monday's schedule	No class meeting. Watch "Making Sense of the Sixties" on your own.	
<i>The Anti-War Movement</i> Monday 2/27	Chapter 4: The Protest Cycle of the 1960s (pages 68-70)	

Date	Readings	Assignments
Wednesday 3/1	Civic Engagement Planning Session 2	
<i>The Women's Movement</i> Monday 3/6	Chapter 5: The Women's Movement (pages 71-92)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The Women's Movement</i> Wednesday 3/8	FILM: "She's Beautiful When She's Angry"	
Spring Break	Enjoy!	
Monday 3/20	Civic Engagement Planning Session 3	
Wednesday 3/22	Civic Engagement Teach-in	Due Friday 3/24: Teach In Reflection Paper
<i>The LGBTQ Movement</i> Monday 3/27	Chapter 6: The LGBTQ Movement (pages 93-110)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The LGBTQ Movement</i> Wednesday 3/29	"LGBT Leaders: Gay Marriage Is Not Enough" by Samantha Allen (online)	
<i>The Environmental Movement</i> Monday 4/3	Chapter 7: The Environmental Movement (pages 111-136)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The Environmental Movement</i> Wednesday 4/5	FILM: "After the Spill"	Due Friday 4/7: Case Study Paper Draft
<i>Right-Wing Movements</i> Monday 4/10	Chapter 8: American Right-Wing Movements (pages 137-166)	
<i>Right-Wing Movements</i> Wednesday 4/12	FILM: "The Billionaires Tea Party"	
<i>The Global Justice Movements</i> Monday 4/17	Chapter 9: Global Movements for Social Justice (pages 167-187)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
<i>The Global Justice Movements</i> Wednesday 4/19	FILM: "Poverty, Inc."	

Date	Readings	Assignments
<i>Social Change?</i> Monday 4/24	FILM: "This Black Soil"	
<i>Social Change?</i> Wednesday 4/26	Chapter 10: Social Movements and Social Change (pages 189-193)	Reading Question due by 8am on Schoology.
Monday 5/1	Case Study Presentations	
Wednesday 5/3	Case Study Presentations	
Friday 5/12	Final Case Study Paper Due on Schoology	

Course Policies:

Assignments & Grading: Your final grade will be made up of the following assignments:

Reading Reaction Questions	Due Mondays by 8am on Schoology	30%
Case Study Paper Draft	Friday 4/7 on Schoology	20%
Civic Engagement Teach In and Reflection Paper	Friday 3/24 on Schoology	20%
Case Study Paper	Friday 5/12 on Schoology	30%

Attendance:

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
- Regular attendance will help boost your final grade in the course.
- If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from another student.

Classroom Respect:

We are all responsible for maintaining a respectful environment in this class. I encourage you to participate in class discussions and to raise questions and make observations. Sociology often touches on areas of deeply held beliefs, on controversies, and sensitive issues. While students should feel free to explore their own perspectives on these issues, students are also expected to be respectful of others' views. To do your part, I ask that you listen with an open mind while others are speaking. When you're speaking, refrain from personal attacks and back up your statements with supporting evidence. This does not mean that you can't disagree, only that you

must do so respectfully.

Reading Response Questions:

Each week there will be a question on the upcoming week's reading posted on Schoology's Discussion Board. You must answer the question online by 8am Monday morning. Your response to the question should be 1 paragraph long (~150 words). You will not be able to read other responses until you have posted your own.

schoolology.com

This semester we will use the website Schoology to organize our coursework and resources. You will post your reading question responses to the Discussion Board on Schoology, and I will submit your grades and feedback through the website. Schoology also contains a calendar of due dates, links to assigned and supplemental readings, and a place where we can share links and interesting material during the semester. You can use the code 5PSCK-6KWD2 to sign up for our course on Schoology.

Special Accommodations:

If you require special accommodations to participate in, or to complete the work in this course, please let me know within the first two weeks of class so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Academic Honesty:

I expect you to follow the William Paterson University Academic Integrity Policy. Anytime you turn in individual work I expect that it will be written solely by you and will be unique from that of your classmates. It is the policy of the Sociology Department that, with documented evidence, a student who cheats on an exam or paper for the first time *will fail the course* and record of the occurrence will be sent to the department Chair and the relevant Dean. If a student cheats a second time, they will fail the course *and* be expelled from the sociology major and reported to the relevant Dean. Please ask if you have any questions about what is and is not acceptable. The Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://www.wpunj.edu/irt/ctlr/resources/academicintegrity.html>

If You Need Help:

Do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance during the semester. You are responsible for heading off problems before they turn into emergencies. The sooner you get in touch with me about an issue, the sooner we can work to solve a problem together.

Helpful Resources on Campus:

Academic Success Center: Raubinger Hall, 720-3324/2563

At the Academic Success Center, students receive one-on-one tutoring assistance,

developmental skills for math and reading courses, and workshops to help students develop effective study skills and utilize effective strategies. A computer lab, study groups, and exam review sessions are also available.

Writing Center: Atrium 128, 720-2633

The Writing Center provides one-on-one tutoring for any WPU student working on any kind of writing in any stage of development. We work with students on writing issues such as outlining, thesis clarification, organization, style, transitions, citing, and grammar, and we help them learn how to edit and proofread their own writing. Students can make an appointment at <https://wpunj.mywconline.com>, or stop by Atrium 128 or VR 3048.

Office of Veteran's and Military Affairs: Speert Hall 118, 720-3660

The Office provides support to veterans, active duty service members and their families by administering services that assist with the transition from military service member to college student.

Counseling, Health & Wellness Center: Overlook South, 720-2257/2360

The Center provides free primary health care, personal counseling, health education, and prevention services to students.

The Women's Center: Student Center Room 313, 720-2578

The Women's Center works to expand the understanding of gender issues, empower students to explore options in their lives, and motivate the campus community toward greater involvement in these issues as leaders, allies, and agents of change. The Center's LGBTQ Programs facilitate the social, psychological, and academic growth of LGBTQ students.