

SOCI 3392ACE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Fall 2011
3 Credit Hours

Location: CHSS 226

Time: T/TH 2:00-3:20

Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

Course Description:

The course introduces students to collective behavior, providing an overview of the principal theories and issues regarding collective behavior and social movements. Through classroom exercises students will gain a better understanding of the dynamics of collective behavior and social change. Students will also learn about several social movements, with an emphasis on contemporary movements. Students' participation in community organizations will form the basis for observations on social problems and the issues involved in mobilizing people and resources to solve them in the real world. In this course, you will not only learn knowledge and skills, but also actively use them to make a difference in your community to improve the quality of life. This experience, it is hoped, will help you see yourself as a positive force in this world and deepen your understanding of your role as a citizen. Assignments will be reflections on how course materials apply to these community settings. Prerequisite: Soc 131.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. explain basic sociological concepts and theories related to social movements and collective action
2. understand and analyze ideas and perspectives surrounding main issues related to the study of social movements
3. apply the theories discussed in class to an examination of instances of collective action/social movements observed outside the classroom.

Required Texts:

Staggenborg, Suzanne. 2011. Social Movements. New York: Oxford University Press.

NOTE: One copy of the Staggenborg text is on reserve at the library.

Participation (50 points)

SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. If you arrive more than **5 minutes** after the start of class, you will be counted absent. If you leave more than **5 minutes** before the end of class, you will be counted absent.

Your attendance is vital to this class both for your own learning and for our growth as a community of scholars. Attending class will help you with your assignments and contribute to your comprehensive understanding of the material. We will be discussing together what we are reading and learning from observations and experiences in the organizations. It is your responsibility to sign in on the class roster at the beginning of each class. If you do not, there is no record of your attendance. You will receive one point for each day you attend class (30 classes x 1 point = 30 points). In order to receive credit for the day, you must arrive on time and attend the entire class session. You are responsible for the material presented during class whether or not you attend. Please arrange with a classmate to get missed notes and announcements.

Discussion points will account for 20 points of the participation grade. You will earn these points by submitting 2 questions about the readings by 12:00 noon each Tuesday. These will be submitted through Turn It In and must be submitted by the deadline or they will not count. In addition to the 2 questions, you must cite the page numbers and paragraphs that prompted your questions. Each time you submit the questions, you will earn 2 points up to a maximum of 20 points.

Documentation is required for an absence to be excused or to make-up exams or assignments. Attendance will be taken into consideration if your final average is on the cusp between letter grades.

Organization Presentations

In Week 8 each student will make a brief (10 minutes) presentation on her/his community organization to the class. Guidelines for the presentations will be distributed in class.

Community Organizations:

As we discuss collective behavior and social movements, we will learn that they begin once a social problem is identified and a person, and later a group of people, acts to address the problem. Our communities are home to an array of non-profit organizations that have been established to lessen or solve social problems. As a part of this course, you will volunteer in a non-profit organization. You may choose one from a list of Huntsville organizations available at http://www.shsu.edu/~org_cls/agency/, or you may select another one here or in your neighborhood, subject to my approval. By the beginning of the third week of class, each student will develop a plan with the organization to examine and help strengthen one area of the organization. For example, you might help with communication strategies, fundraising plans and activities, member recruitment and/or retention, etc. These are all key issues in the development and growth of social movements and their organizations.

Hours (100 points)

You are required to volunteer at least 1.5 hours a week in an organization in your community. A list of possible organizations in Huntsville, with contact information, will be posted in Blackboard. If you commute to campus, you may volunteer in an organization where you live if it is approved by me. Hours must be documented and initialed by the student and an organizational representative. Full points for Hours (100) are earned upon providing appropriate documentation at the end of the semester (75 points) plus a written statement from an organizational supervisor evaluating the student contribution during the semester (25). Hours will be verified by me several times during the semester.

2 Applied Sociology Essays: 200 points, 100 points each

The papers will be focused on linking the readings to your experiences in community organizations.

1. Summarize the main point(s) of readings;
2. Apply to your organizational setting;
3. Conclusions should include critical reflections about how the readings help understand collective behavior processes in your organization and in society more generally.

Papers must be a minimum of 3 full pages of text, double-spaced, 12 point font (not in bold type) 1 inch margins, include a reference page, no title page, with heading (name and class, single spaced) only on first page, citations within text.

Social Movement Presentations

The last few weeks of class will be dedicated to 15-minute student presentations on social movements. The guidelines for these presentations will be distributed in class mid-semester. These presentations will reflect the student's knowledge about a social movement and the analysis of the movement using the concepts explored in the Staggenborg text at the beginning of the semester.

Point Scale:

Students have the possibility to earn up to 600 points in this class:

Participation	50
Organization Presentation	50
1 Exams	100
2 Applied Sociology Essays	200
Social Movement Presentations	100
Hours	100 (75 + 25)
Total	600 Points

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade:

- A 537-600
- B 477-536
- C 417-476
- D 357-416
- F 0-356

Extra Credit: Extra credit points may be earned during the semester. Opportunities will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Blackboard: The syllabus and other documents will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly for announcements and course materials. Grades for this course will be recorded in Blackboard.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment (plagiarism) is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat or plagiarize will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then meet with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations may be made. **This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.** *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. This feedback is important. It is used by professors to improve their teaching. Please participate in the evaluation process.

Assignments: Work for this class will consist of reading the texts, attending class, taking notes, studying the texts and class notes for the quizzes and exams. This course has a “Writing Intensive” designation. Therefore most of the work you will complete in this course is written (essay, paper and final project). You will also present your final project to the class as a part of your grade.

Required Supplies: You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly and frequently for announcements and course materials.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	Aug. 25	First day of class – orientation
Week 2	Aug. 30/1	Intro to course, Ch. 1
Week 3	Sept. 6, 8	Ch. 1, Identify Organizational Partners
Week 4	Sept. 13, 15	Ch. 2
Week 5	Sept. 20, 22	Ch. 2 (contd.), work day
Week 6	Sept. 27, 29	Applied Essay 1, Film
Week 7	Oct. 4, 6	Ch. 3

Week 8	Oct. 11, 13	Exam 1, Ch. 4
Week 9	Oct. 18, 20	Organization Presentations
Week 10	Oct. 25, 27	Organization Presentations
Week 11	Nov. 1, 3	Ch. 9, Film/ Applied Essay 2
Week 12	Nov. 8, 10	Ch. 9 (contd.), Film
Week 13	Nov. 15, 17	Ch. 10, Hours due
Week 14	Nov. 22, 24	Workday, Thanksgiving
Week 15	Nov. 29, 1	Workday, Begin Poster Presentations
Week 16	Dec. 6, 8	Poster Presentations

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

- 1) Students are to treat other students, guest speakers and faculty with respect.
- 2) Please do not talk while the professor, another classmate or guest speaker is speaking. This holds for film viewing as well. Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk while others are talking as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
- 3) Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Note: if your phone is visible during class you will be docked two points from your next assignment. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom. This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
- 4) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
- 5) Computers may be used to take notes in the first two rows only.
- 6) Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
- 7) Students may tape record lectures with the professor's approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*
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THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.