

Social Movements: Theory and Practice

GOV 370L 38850

Fall 2011

Instructor: Shannon Bow (O'Brien), PhD
Meeting Time: MWF 11am-12 noon
Location: MEZ B0.306
Office Hours: 3.226 Mezes. 232-7213 (but I really prefer email)
Monday, Wednesday 2pm-4pm
I am also available by appointment.
If class is cancelled/not being held, office hours are cancelled too.

Email: shannonbow@hotmail.com

Be sure to include something about the noon 370 Social Movements class in the subject line. I am teaching both American Government and Social Movements this semester so an email saying 'question about class' needs to be more specific.

Please routinely check Blackboard for this class. I post Powerpoint slides, notes and information I feel are important to the class. In addition, we will post your grades online.

Course Description:

This course is about social movements. Social movements involve groups of people organizing or coalescing around issues. This course is designed to be an introduction to the topic. Groups of people have been organizing together towards joint goals for centuries. People with differing opinions about actions, policies, and behaviors want to have their voice heard about their concerns. Social movements often develop when a large enough number of people with similar problems come together. Some movements are total failures. Some succeed and thrive and others succeed and subside. Still, many others fall somewhere between success and failure. This course plans to introduce broad ideas about social movements, raise important questions, and help students develop a better understanding about them. Every movement is different, but elements within them can be categorized and understood. The analysis of these elements can give you the tools to look at movements or groups within society and make educated guesses about their long term viability.

The literature of social movements can be very theoretical and difficult to decipher. The class will only have 1 assigned book for the semester. This book is a compilation of many important articles, papers, and readings regarding social movements.

Required Readings:

There is ONE (1) book required for this course.

The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts, 2nd edition. Edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, Publisher: Wiley Blackwell, 2009 ISBN: 978-1-4051-8764

I also reserve the right to assign additional readings from time to time if I feel they are needed. Any additional readings will be added Blackboard and also announced in class.

This course may require additional readings from JSTOR or other online sources.

Grades: 2 tests, three written assignments

Grades will be based on the following:

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|----------------|---------------------|-----|
| Midterm | Oct 14 (Fri): | 30% |
| Final | Dec 10 (SAT) 9-Noon | 40% |

Paper Assignments:

- Paper Assignment 1 **Sept 23 (FRI)** worth 5%
- Paper Assignment 2 **Oct 21 (FRI)** worth 5%
- Executive Summary of a Social Movement **Nov 18 (FRI)** worth 20%

If attendance becomes extremely low, or if I think pop quizzes are in order, I do may begin to take attendance or give quizzes. If I do exercise this option, I will announce it in class and on Blackboard as well as with the re-weighted grade scale. However, attendance is NOT required for this course.

I also reserve the right to make any changes to the grading system I see fit during the semester. This may include, but is not limited to additional paper assignments (if I determine they are needed), or moving the test dates to accommodate unforeseen circumstances (think hurricanes and natural disasters, not doctor's appointments).

Grade Scale:

The University uses a plus/minus system. Here is the scale I will use for the class for grades. I do NOT round up or negotiate grades. You will receive your earned grade based on performance.

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|-----|----------|-----|--------------|
| A: | 93-100 | C: | 73-76.99 |
| A-: | 90-92.99 | C-: | 70-72.99 |
| B+: | 87-89.99 | D+: | 67-69.99 |
| B: | 83-86.99 | D: | 63-66.99 |
| B-: | 80-82.99 | D-: | 60-62.99 |
| C+: | 77-79.99 | F: | Less than 60 |

Paper Assignments

You will have 3 paper assignments. These assignments will be posted on Blackboard prior to their due date and passed out in class.

ONLY *paper copies* of the assignments will be accepted.

Late papers will be penalized. For every calendar day a paper is late (including weekends), it will be penalized 5% of the total grade a day until 50%. Additional late penalties will not be assessed after 50% though you may be graded lower than 50% for incorrect information.

Paper Assignments 1 and 2 will be short assignments were you will be asked to fill in information about specific social movements. The idea is to help make you aware of different aspects of groups and their history. You will be given a choice of movements for these assignments.

Executive Summary of a Social Movement: Think term paper but with sections For this assignment, I will ask you to create a briefing about a social movement. You may make one up, or you may use one in existence. It must adhere to reality (i.e. No movements like "Ewok Height Equity Movement"). I will provide an outline on blackboard that will give you the sections I would like you to develop and expand. I will ask you to develop a movement, explain its organization, viability, and other aspects based on the tools you have learned in class.

EXAMS

Two Exams will be given. They will cover material presented in lectures and in the readings from the text, as well as any other material assigned/presented in class (including videos if I show any). The final exam is **NOT** cumulative and will only cover material presented since the previous exam. However, most of concepts in this course build upon each other so you will be expected to retain information from earlier portions of the class.

The exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, short essay, or matching.

The test days are fixed and announced the first day of class. They will not be changed or negotiated. If these test days do not fit your personal schedule, do **NOT** enroll in this course. There are too many students in this course to

work with you to make these dates fit vacations, trips, or other such matters. While I will abide by university approved absences and work with students, make up exams may not be the same exam given to the majority of the class and could be an essay exam if I decide one is best to test the information.

I do not return tests in this class though I return Assignments. You are **always** welcome to come in any time during the semester to look at your tests (Yes, you can still look at test 1 after the 3rd exam if you wish). If my office hours do not work for your schedule but you want to see your test, let me know and we can try to work out a time to meet.

All assignment grades can only be questioned or challenged for 2 weeks after the date I pass them back in class. If you skip class that day, the time still starts counting. If the grade is not questioned or challenged in this time frame, it stands as recorded. This is designed to encourage students to retrieve their papers and also to not question grades in December that were handed back in October because they decide they do not like their final class grade.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

You will be expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code: *The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.*

Though obvious, cheating is not allowed on any assignments or exams. Cheating involves transmitting or receiving any information from any electronic device, paper, hand signals, or other means of communication during a test. Plagiarism is also prohibited. It refers to copying any work from any source (electronic, paper, etc) without noting/citing where it is originally from. It is important to note that using ideas (and not just quotes) from other sources without proper citation also counts as plagiarism. Any assignments turned in will be assumed to be the final version of the assignment and any inappropriate material will be considered intentional and not accidental.

You will be asked to remove hats and sunglasses while taking an exam. The use of cellular phones/beepers/palm pilots/wi fi/text messaging/etc are PROHIBITED during lectures and tests. Students will be asked to leave class if they fail to comply with this rule. Furthermore, if a cellular phone goes off during an exam, we will collect the exam immediately and the student will not be allowed to complete the test. If we discover any student using or receiving messages from any electronic device during the exam, they will automatically fail the exam and be referred to the proper University authorities for cheating. In addition, any student caught cheating in any conventional manner (i.e. using notes, cheat sheets, looking at another student's paper) will also fail and be referred to the proper authorities for cheating.

Students are allowed to use laptops during lectures for **note taking only**. Students who need such electronic devices because of a disability are allowed to use them during the exam in the appropriate centers for disability/modified testing (these students are only allowed to use devices to facilitate learning and are forbidden to use them for scholastic dishonesty). You can contact the office at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/contact.php> if you need to talk to them about scheduling tests (but I need to know as well).

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Blackboard

I will attempt to use Blackboard as a way to provide information to the class. In the past, I have regularly made RTF versions of my Powerpoint slides available prior to class. However, if I encounter problems utilizing Blackboard, I may shift my materials (including test guides and other things) to another website devoted to making material available to the class. I will announce any changes of this sort to the class.

Please note: this is a new course for me. I do not have lectures prepped in advance for this course. I plan to prepare lectures about a week ahead of class. These lectures are brand new and I have no material to pull from for the class. I will try to make the slides available before class, but be aware, some material may be posted just an hour or two before classes.

I will try to post on Blackboard review sheets prior to each exam. These sheets should not be considered the definitive study guide for the test. Rather, they are a list of major concepts and ideas you should definitely know for the exam.

Additional information

Do NOT phone or email me about a grade (i.e. "What did I get?"). We will post grades electronically as soon as practical.

If you need extra time on a test and/or require special physical accommodations, please contact me in confidence as soon as possible at the beginning of the course. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs within the guidelines set forth by the University.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>

Make-up exams/Excused Absences

Absences on exam days may be excused if the student provides verifiable documentation of accident, illness, or university or legal obligation. Unexcused absences from examinations will result in a score of zero for that exam.

I **STRONGLY** encourage you not to miss an exam. The make up may be different from the exam given to the rest of the class. It may include an essay format, but the exam format is at my discretion.

One more thing: If a true emergency occurs that you know you can document, take care of yourself first and we will sort it out later. You do not need to call me from the ER or jail to let us know you won't be there. In those situations, you have bigger problems than this class at that moment in time.

Class Calendar

The readings for this day are the readings I expect you to have done PRIOR to that day. This calendar is based on my best estimation of how long it will take to go through the material. On occasion through the semester, I *may* get behind a day depending on how long it takes to cover the topic. Tests will ALWAYS only cover the chapters noted in the syllabus.

I assigned this book (partially) because the questions posed by each chapter are pretty good. They break down the material well. I could have assigned about 5-6 books and a reader for this course but chose not to do so. The weeks will be organized around the headings (Part II, III, etc) and the lectures will address these questions. DO NOT think every lecture will just be about the readings in that chapter. They will likely go beyond the readings for the week. Some of these readings are important in social movement literature, and others are more background.

This book was assigned because it organized a difficult subject into sections that students can grasp without having to read hundreds of pages.

All readings in the book will be fair game for the tests, but use the lectures as a launching pad for studying.

I really like history... most of my classes following an American Political Development format (that's politics and history). I think I am likely going to use the sections to also introduce information in detail about specific movements and actors.

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| Aug 24 Wed | Introduction to the Course – Pass out Syllabi |
| Aug 26 Fri | Part I Introduction |
| Aug 29 Mon | Part I Introduction |
| Aug 31 Wed | Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? Office hours are cancelled today |
| Sept 2 Fri | Independent Reading Day |
| Sept 5 Mon | LABOR DAY – NO CLASS |
| Sept 7 Wed | Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? |
| Sept 9 Fri | Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? |
| Sept 12 Mon | Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? |
| Sept 14 Wed | Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? |
| Sept 16 Fri | Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements? |
| Sept 19 Mon | Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements? |
| Sept 21 Wed | Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements? |
| Sept 23 Fri | Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements? Paper one DUE |
| Sept 26 Mon | Part IV Who Remains in Movements and Who Drops Out? |
| Sept 28 Wed | Part IV Who Remains in Movements and Who Drops Out? |
| Sept 30 Fri | Part IV Who Remains in Movements and Who Drops Out? |
| Oct 3 Mon | Part IV Who Remains in Movements and Who Drops Out? |
| Oct 5 Wed | Part V What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? |
| Oct 7 Fri | Part V What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? |
| Oct 10 Mon | Part V What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? |
| Oct 12 Wed | Part V What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? |
| Oct 14 Fri | MIDTERM (Part I, II, III, IV, V) |

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| Oct 17 Mon | Part VI How Are Movements Organized? |
| Oct 19 Wed | Part VI How Are Movements Organized? |
| Oct 21 Fri | Part VI How Are Movements Organized? Paper two DUE |
| Oct 24 Mon | Part VI How Are Movements Organized? |
| Oct 26 Wed | Part VII What Do Movements Do? |
| Oct 28 Fri | Part VII What Do Movements Do? |
| Oct 31 Mon | Part VII What Do Movements Do? |
| Nov 2 Wed | Part VII What Do Movements Do? |
| Nov 4 Fri | Part VIII How Do Institutions Influence Movements? |
| Nov 7 Mon | Part VIII How Do Institutions Influence Movements? |
| Nov 9 Wed | Part VIII How Do Institutions Influence Movements? |
| Nov 11 Fri | Part VIII How Do Institutions Influence Movements? |
| Nov 14 Mon | Part IX Why Do Movements Decline? |
| Nov 16 Wed | Part IX Why Do Movements Decline? |
| Nov 18 Fri | Part IX Why Do Movements Decline? Executive Summary of a Social Movement DUE |
| Nov 21 Mon | Part IX Why Do Movements Decline? |
| Nov 23 Wed | Independent Reading Day |
| Nov 25 Fri | THANKSGIVING- No Class |
| Nov 28 Mon | Part X What Changes Do Movements Bring About? |
| Nov 30 Wed | Part X What Changes Do Movements Bring About? |
| Dec 2 Fri | Part X What Changes Do Movements Bring About? |
| Dec 10 (SAT) 9-Noon | FINAL EXAM (Part VI, VII, VIII, IX, X) |