Sociology 3743  
Collective Behavior/Social Movements  
Fall 2002  

Instructor: Dr. Laurel Holland  
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Required Texts:  
*Indicates additional readings on library reserve.  

Course Description: The field of collective behavior/social movements is large and diverse. Much debate has questioned whether a field that covers such a wide range of topics should be considered as two fields instead of one. Collective behavior is behavior in which the usual social conventions and norms no longer guide social action and institutional patterns of behavior are bypassed as new norms are spontaneously developed. Analysts of collective behavior refer to behavior ranging from fads and rumors to panics and disasters. Social movement behavior refers to behaviors associated with more formal organizations established to achieve a goal of social change. Examples of social movements include: the civil rights movement, the women’s movement, and the environmental movement. In this course an examination of collective behavior and social movement theory proceeds an investigation of several national social movements in American history.  

Learning Outcomes  

1. To lay a foundation of sociological knowledge in the area of collective behavior/social movements.  
2. To probe into enduring sociological questions of social order and social change as they relate to collective behavior/social movements.  
3. To apply the collective behavior/social movement theoretical perspectives to the current analysis of twentieth century social movements.  
4. To sharpen analytical and critical thinking skills through reading, writing, and class discussion.  

Course Requirements
Exams
There will be three (3) exams throughout the semester including the final exam. Exams will cover readings, lecture material, video presentations, and classroom discussion. The exam format will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay. Each exam will be worth 100 possible points. The average test scores will account for 50% of your overall grade.

Timed Writings
Students are expected to attend class regularly and be on time. On unannounced dates you will be expected to demonstrate your comprehension of weekly assigned readings by completing a timed writing assignment. Topics for the writing and specific instructions will be given in class. Attending class regularly ensures that you will be present when a writing is administered. Each writing will be worth 25 possible points (for a total of 100 possible points). The average of the four writings will account for 20% of your overall class grade.
*Note: There is no make-up option for timed writings. You must be in class on the day that a writing is announced in order to receive credit.

Research Projects
You are expected to complete a research project in which you detail the activities of a local social movement. In addition to exploring the history, mission, and activities of the group, you are expected to interview at least four current or past members of the group. Research projects will be discussed in more detail in class. Research projects will account for 30% of your overall grade.

Overall Class Evaluation
Exams (average of 4 exams) = 50%
Timed Writings = 20%
Research Projects = 30%
TOTAL 100%

Attendance
Students are expected to attend class regularly and be on time.

Academic Alert
Academic dishonesty is a serious offense will not be tolerated. See the student handbook for policies.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
SECTION I

Week One
Aug. 20  Course Introduction
Aug. 22  “How It All Got Started.” A Sociological Theory Primer

Readings:

Week Two
Aug. 27  A Sociological Theory Primer, continued
Aug. 29  A Sociological Theory Primer, continued

Readings:

Week Three
Sept. 3  “Are You Crazy?” Defining Collective Behavior/CB Theory
Sept. 5  Defining Collective Behavior/CB Theory, cont.

Readings:

Week Four
Sept. 10&12  “If I be only for myself, who will be for me?”
What is a Social Movement?/SM Theory

Readings:

Week Five
Sept. 17  “I want to come back as an activist!”
Movement cycles: birth, death, and resurgence.”

Readings:
* Holland & Cable. “Reconceptualizing Social Movement Abeyance: The Role or Internal Processes and Culture in Cycles of Movement Abeyance and Resurgence.”

Sept. 19  “If you don’t do it nobody else will.”
Social movement strategies, tactics, & participation.
Readings:

**Week Six**
Sept. 24 Summary of CB/SM theory/Review for Exam
Sept. 26 Exam #1

SECTION II

**Week Seven**
Oct. 1/3 “I have a dream!” The Civil Rights Movement

Readings:
Goldberg. Chapter Seven: “We Shall Not be Moved”: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.” (Pp. 141-166).

**Week Eight**
Oct. 8/10 “The Color of Blood.” Movements of Race

Readings:

**Week Nine**
Oct. 15/17 “A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.”
The Women’s Movement

Readings:

**Week Ten**
Oct. 22 “The Brady Bunch meets Will & Grace.”
The Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Movement
Oct. 24 Exam #2

Readings:

SECTION III

**Week Eleven**
Oct. 29/31 “The folks who brought you the weekend.”
The Labor Movement

Readings:

Week Twelve
Nov. 5/7  “The True Believers” Movements of Faith

Readings:

Week Thirteen
Nov. 12  “Not in My Backyard” Local & National Environmental Movement

Readings:

Nov. 14  No Class, Georgia Sociological Association Meetings

Week Fourteen
Nov. 19/21  Research Presentations

SECTION IV

Week Fifteen
Nov. 26  Research Presentations
Nov. 28 No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week Sixteen
Dec. 3 Review for Final Exam

Final Exam  Thursday, Dec. 12th, 8:00-10:00

POST SCRIPT: The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the syllabus.