

Social Movements and Community Change

SOCI 360 (online)

Course Syllabus

Fall 2020

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

<http://sociology.morrisville.edu/2020/fall/soci360>

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

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall
(not present in fall 2020)

Office Hours: I will be generally available by email on weekdays (M-F) during business hours (9am-5pm). Please do not expect an email back immediately outside of these hours.

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“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. **Note: This is an online course. Regular Internet access is a requirement for successful completion of this online course.**

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 of 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%

You will be asked to contribute to a weekly discussion* of the topics covered in class. Typically, a specific question will be asked to which you must provide a comment, critique, example, or some other original thought. Because viewpoints differ, please remember to keep conversation civil and avoid harsh critique of others' viewpoints.

* The "Discussions" area can be found using the links on the left side of the Blackboard page; click that link and then click on the title of the Discussion to which you want to add a comment or reply. You'll see a page of posts with the other student's names; to add to it, click on "Create Thread".

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 related to in 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 Blackboard page**. Students are required to submit four music interpretations in total, which should be spread throughout the course (see course schedule).

Research Paper: 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 paper will take the form of a 10-page, scholarly-cited academic paper. More information will be given in class.

Exams and group 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. Quizzes (10% of final grade) may be given at any time to test comprehension of the textbook readings and online resource assignments. Two exams (each 15% of the final grade) will measure longer-term reading comprehension and analysis.

Summary of Grade Criteria

% of course grade

- Discussion participation	10%
- Music Interpretations	20%
- Research Project	30%
- 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.

Class Policies:

- **Participation:** Students should make every attempt to participate every week of the course. Non-participation will flag you for individual contact by the instructor. ***You must have regular access to your Morrisville e-mail account, the Morrisville Blackboard page online, and the course web site*** (see top of syllabus), as well as have regular (daily) access to a broadband internet connection. Proper use of each of these resources will be vital to your success in the course. Participation will involve doing activities and exercises related to weekly topics. Your report on these sociological experiences will help define your involvement in the course.
- **Class Norms:** You are attending class in an online setting, but one required to resemble a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. It is expected, just as in the face-to-face classroom, that you will be courteous and polite in your discussions and interactions. Trolling, phishing, spamming, hacking, doxing, or otherwise treating other students or the professor in disrespectful ways are examples of *unacceptable* class behavior. The class conversation online should take the form of civilized, logical argument or pose a relevant question, and should never show disdain for another participant's point of view, although you are welcome to define your own point of view. RESPECT for the online space of the class and its ideas and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL in posting is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually post on the discussion board messages that specifically deride and abuse another person's opinion) the professor reserves the right to point it out and take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to asking you to leave the online discussion board for a week or longer (for which a grade penalty will be incurred). If you want a higher grade, recognize these guidelines and be thoughtful of others.
- **Internet Outage Policy:**
In the event of an internet outage during the course (particularly while taking a quiz or exam) that affects your ability to succeed in the course, you should contact the professor as soon as possible. If internet accessibility becomes a regular problem, the professor reserves the right to grade the student accordingly (*ut videre apta*).
- **Plagiarism Rule:** 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.*

IMPORTANT RULE ABOUT COPYING: In an online setting, it's tempting to "work together" with one or more other students to answer questions and complete assignments and exams. Please know that I have a keen eye and memory, and I have comparison software that can scan your assignment and compare the wording to other students'. IF THERE IS AN EXACT MATCH, BOTH/ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED WILL FAIL THE ASSIGNMENT (in the case of a first infraction; see plagiarism consequences, above). In the case of exams and quizzes, if answers to all questions match exactly or statistically too close to another student(s), both/all students involved will face a penalty.

Late, Make-up Assignment, Extra Credit Policy

Exams and quizzes: I expect exams to be taken during the preassigned times arranged during the course. Make-up exams (opening the exam portal online) will not be done, unless you make arrangements with me more than *24 hours (1 full day)* in advance of the end of the exam. If you miss an exam or quiz without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam or quiz (In the case of medical emergencies, please contact me).

Music Interpretations and Research Reports: Music interpretations and the research report assignments will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in up to ONE WEEK after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10 points on a 100 point scale), unless otherwise indicated by the professor. No written assignments will be accepted for course credit after the one-week late period unless permission is granted by the professor.

Discussion Board: Your contributions to the course discussion board should take place during the week that the discussion assignment is given (by the following Sunday at midnight). Late discussion board contributions will be subject to approval by the professor and given half-credit if accepted.

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 Blackboard), 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.

Week 1: Introduction to Sociology and Social Movements

Songline:

Aug 25

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

Aug 27

- 1.1) Read [Chp 21, Introduction to Sociology, Social Movements](#) (click 'Next' on each page to read entire chapter)
- 1.2) Watch [Social Movements: A Primer](#) (Chow, Youtube, 19 min)
- 1.3) Watch [Lee, The Four Types of Social Movements](#) (2018, YouTube, 7 min)

Week 2: Witch Hunts and Moral Panics

Sept 1

- 2.1) Read [Locher, Chp 1, What is Collective Behavior?](#)
- 2.2) Read [Locher, Chp 2, Social Contagion Theory](#)

Sept 3

- 2.4) Watch [Lamb, New Media and Moral Panics](#) (2012, YouTube, 4 min)
- 2.3) Watch [Baker, The Cycle of Moral Panics](#) (2014, YouTube, 3 min)
- 2.5) Watch [Cook, Moral Panics: An Introduction](#) (2019, YouTube, 35 min)

Week 3: The Labor Movement and Unionization

Sept 8

- 3.1) Read [Locher, Chp 4, Value-Added Theory](#)

Sept 10

- 3.2) Read [Marx & Engels, The Communist Manifesto](#) (orig. 1847, SquashedEditions, 20 min read)
- 3.3) Watch [The Workers' Rights Revolution](#) ('It's History', 2015, YouTube, 10 min)
- 3.4) Watch [The History of Workers' Rights](#) (City Rising, 2019, YouTube, 14 min)

Week 4: Women's Rights, Part 1

Sept 15

- 4.1) Read [Edwards, Chp 2, From the mad to the sane](#)

Sept 17

- 4.2) Watch excerpts, *Iron-Jawed Angels* TBA
- 4.3) Watch [Greene, Crash Course in US History: Women's Suffrage](#)
- 4.4) Read TBA

Week 5: Mass Movements of 20th century Totalitarianism: Hitler & Stalin

Sept 29

- 5.1) Read Kornhauser, Mass Society Theory, excerpts TBA
- 5.2) Read Schaeffer, [Social Movements and Global Social Change, Chp 1](#) and [Chp 2](#)

Oct 1

- 5.3) Watch: US Holocaust Museum, [The Path to Nazi Genocide](#)

Week 6: Review and Exam 1

Sept 22

6.1) Read [Locher, Chp 13, Social Movements](#)

Sept 24

*** Exam 1 - Thurs Sept 28 on Blackboard**

Week 7: "Post-Materialism" and the New Social Movements of the late 20th c. & early 21st c.

Oct 6

7.1) Read [Edwards Chp 4, From political processes to cultural processes](#)

7.2) Read [Della Porta and Diani, Chp 3.0, 3.1, The Symbolic Dimension of Collective Action, text pgs64-73 \(pdf pgs 75-84\)](#)

Oct 8

7.3) Read Castells, [Network Society, Power of Identity](#) excerpts

Week 8: The Anti-Vietnam War Movement of the 1960s

Oct 13

8.1) TBA

Oct 15

8.2) Read/Watch [PBS American Experience](#) on [1964: A Year That Changed America](#)

Week 9: The Women's Rights Movement, Part 2: The Return of Feminism

Oct 20

9.1) TBA

Oct 22

9.2) TBA

Week 10: Environmental Movement

Oct 27

10.1) Read Castells, [The Power of Identity, Chp 3, The Environmental Movement](#)

Oct 29

10.3) Read Gerlach, [The Structure Of Social Movements: Environmental Activism And Its Opponents](#)

Week 11: Identity Rights Movements I: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Nov 3

10.1) [PBS American Experience: Stonewall Uprising](#) (2020, PBS website stream)

Nov 5

10.2) TBA

Week 12: Identity Rights Movements II: Civil Rights Movement Part 2

Nov 10

11.1) TBA

Nov 12

11.2) TBA

Week 13: Racial Supremacy and Conservative/Reactionary Movements

Nov 17

12.1) TBA

Nov 19

12.2) TBA

Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Review for Final Exam

Dec 1

14.1) Read [Locher textbook Chp 14, Understanding Social Movements](#)

Dec 3

14.2) Watch: [Khan Academy, Social Movements](#) – review notes, prep for final

Week 15: Final Exam on Blackboard (time/day TBA)