Sociology 343
Collective Behavior

Fall, 2016
AUP 191
M, W: 2-3:15
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Bolton 756
Office Hours: M 3:15-5, W 12-1, and by appt.

BACKGROUND

Collective behavior involves shared but non-routine responses to events, things, or ideas. The term covers a wide range of human behaviors, from “panics” in burning theaters to the Salem witch trials and Halloween riots in Madison, and from peaceful protests to social revolutions and terrorism. Most of the course will focus on particular kinds of collective actions associated with social movements. Social movements are collective actions organized to bring about or prevent social change.

Our main objective is to better understand why people act in collective contexts as they do by critically examining different explanatory models of collective action. After we examine these basic explanations and try to add our own insights, we will review research on a few United States social movements. For the last seven weeks of the course I have deliberately left our schedule open so that we can choose collective actions or social movements depending upon the interests of class members. We will make those decisions within the first two weeks of class; there may be some restrictions on our choices imposed by the availability of appropriate readings.

This syllabus along with other required course readings, materials, and grades will be posted on the course D2L site (d2l.uwm.edu).

REQUIREMENTS

I will generally try to avoid straight lectures in the hope that we can all learn more if we actively engage and discuss the course material rather than passively consume it. As such, this course requires steady attendance, preparation for each day, and active participation in class discussions. We will have somewhere between 12 to 16 graded in- (and sometimes out of-) class assignments throughout the semester to help both me and you gauge your understanding of current course content, including readings, lectures, videos, or discussions. If you carefully do the reading assignments and come to, pay attention in, and participate in class you should do fine on these. Otherwise, you will miss out on the opportunity for regular feedback and relatively easy-to-earn points. There are no makeups of these assignments; at the end of the semester I will drop your two lowest scores. Combined, these assignments will account for 10 percent of your final grade.

The rest of your grade will be determined by two in-class examinations and a paper project. The first exam will be given on Wednesday, October 26 and the final on Wednesday, December 21, 12:30-2:30. The exams will consist mainly of essay questions but will include a small number of multiple choice and short answer questions. They will be cumulative in the following sense: any issue touched on in initial exams will be fair game in subsequent exams. Makeup exams will only be given in the most extreme of documented emergencies.
The requirements for the course are weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper project: Proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Each project will have two parts: a proposal and a 9-10 page paper. Your project should be theoretical as well as substantive – that is, you should tackle a general theoretical problem in the collective behavior and social movement literature, but do so concerning a particular collective behavior or social movement. You might, for example, be interested in how people become involved in movements and have a particular interest in studying the LGBT movement. The proposal is due Wednesday, November 9, and should provide a clear statement of the problem you plan to explore, some information about the movement or action you will analyze, and a list of 10 or more sources you will use. I strongly encourage you to talk this over with me before the 9th, as I will be happy to help you formulate a topic and suggest appropriate sources. The proposal itself is worth 5% of your course grade (it pays to think ahead). The paper itself is due Wednesday, December 7. Papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day late. I'll provide further details on the paper by the fourth week of class.

**READINGS**

For the first section of the course, you will need to purchase *Social Movements* by Suzanne Staggenborg (2nd edition, Oxford University Press). Additional required readings for the course will be posted on D2L.

You are expected to complete the readings prior to the class for which they are assigned. For lively class discussions (as well as good grades), it will help if you take a few notes as or after you read each assignment. If you underline or highlight passages, try to be selective to ensure that you don't get lost in the “trees.” I also ask that you keep up with current events and political news by regularly reading a newspaper (newsprint or internet versions) and listening to or watching broadcast news programs. Please be on the lookout for collective behavior and social movements wherever they pop up. If you see, hear, or read anything relevant for class discussions, save it, copy it, bookmark it and share it with us!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS *(from Staggenborg text); *(from D2L)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Introduction to Collective Behavior and Social Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Collective Behavior and Social Movements</td>
<td>*Miller, Perspectives on Collective Behavior and Collective Action</td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Fads and Fashion</td>
<td>*Aquirre, et al., The Collective Behavior of Fads: The Characteristics, Effects, and Career of Streaking&lt;br&gt;*Why it sucks to play Pokemon Go if you’re poor&lt;br&gt;*Pokemon Go and the lifespan of fads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Details</td>
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| Sept. 19 | Mass hysteria: “panics,” crowds, etc. | *Panic at the Who concert stampede  
*Don’t Panic! Correcting myths about the crowd  
*Why airports can’t stop false alarms |
| Sept. 21 | Disasters                    | *Miller, Individuals in Disaster  
*Miller, Social Responses to Disaster |
| Sept. 26 | Riots                        | *Barken and Snowden, “Riots”  
*Milwaukee riots fed by decades of African-American economic insecurity |
| Sept. 28 | Migrations                   | *Miller, Migrations                                                              |
| Oct. 3   | Social movements, defined and theorized | +chapters 1 and 2                  |
| Oct. 5   | What we study when we examine social movements | +chapter 3  
*Why Movements Matter |
| Oct. 10  | Movements of the 60s         | +chapter 4  
*D2L reading TBD |
| Oct. 12  | The Women’s Movement         | +chapter 5  
*D2L reading TBD |
| Oct. 17  | The LGBT Movement            | +chapter 6  
*D2L reading TBD |
| Oct. 19  | The Environmental Movement   | +chapter 7  
*D2L reading TBD |
| Oct. 24  | American Right-Wing Movements | +chapters 8 and 10  
*D2L reading TBD |
| Oct. 26  | **MIDTERM EXAM**             |                                                                                   |
| Oct. 31 through Dec. 14 | Topics to be determined in collaboration with 343 students. | Readings TBD |
| Dec. 7   | **FINAL PAPER DUE**          |                                                                                   |
| Dec. 21  | **FINAL EXAM**               | 12:30-2:30 pm                                                                   |
UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

Students with Disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/arc

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminaiton_Policy.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminaiton_Policy.pdf

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-appeals-procedure/

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

Book Royalties. In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.

Update 08/2016