

# Sociology 343

## Collective Behavior

Fall 2018  
NWQ 1871  
M,W 3:30-4:45  
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Bolton 714  
Office Hours: W 12:15-1:30  
Th 11:30-1 and by appointment

*Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.*

*Frederick Douglass*

### BACKGROUND

Collective behavior involves shared but non-routine responses to events, things, or ideas. The term, and this course, 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. For the most part, however, 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 in collective contexts act as they do by critically examining different explanations of collective action. After we examine attempts to answer key questions and critique basic explanations, we will briefly consider social movements in the 1960s movement cycle, the women's movement, LGBT movements, right-wing movements, and the environmental movement. The other cases we study will depend upon the interests of class members. We will make those decisions within the first two weeks of class; there may be some restrictions on choices of movements imposed by the availability of appropriate readings.

This syllabus along with other required course readings, materials, and grades will be posted on the internet via the course canvas site ([uwm.edu/canvas](http://uwm.edu/canvas)).

### REQUIREMENTS

This course will be structured but also very interactive so each student needs to come to class prepared on the assigned material and ready to speak and work with other students. I 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.

**In-Class Assignments:** We will have somewhere between 12 to 15 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 20 percent of your final grade.

**Collective Action/Movement Report:** Once during the semester, each student will prepare a brief (5-10 minute), multimedia presentation (power point, prezzi, etc.) for the class. The topic of these presentations will involve a

current event chosen by the student that relates to some aspect of collective action/behavior or social movements. Students will bring in video clip, podcast, online article, etc. to share with the class. And then will present a power point presentation that discusses how it relates directly and specifically to at least two theories or concepts discussed in the class, preferably theories or concepts we have been discussed just before the presentation is given. More on this the first two weeks of class.

**Exams:** There will be two in-class examinations. The first exam will be given in class on Wednesday, Oct. 17 and the final on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 10-12noon. The exams will consist mainly of essay questions but will include a small number of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative. Makeup exams will only be given in emergencies.

**Research Proposal and Paper:** 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 gay and lesbian rights movement. The **proposal is due Friday, Oct. 26**. It should be about two pages long 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 due date; 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 Friday, Nov. 16** before midnight in the course Canvas dropbox. Papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day late. I'll provide details on the paper by the second week of class.

The requirements for the course are weighted as follows:

In-class assignments	20%
CA/movement report	5
First exam	20
Final exam	25
Paper project: Proposal	5
Paper	25

## READINGS

You will need to purchase *Social Movements* by Suzanne Staggenborg (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Oxford University Press). Additional required readings for the course will be posted on the course Canvas site.

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), review the reading guide questions I provide you for each reading, then take a few notes and try to answer each question as 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. Should you notice anything relevant for class discussions in your watchings, listenings, and readings, clip it, copy it, or just come in and tell us about it.

Managing your time. Students should expect to spend an average of 10 hours per week completing tasks related to this course. Each week students should expect to spend 2.5 hours in lecture meetings, 3 hours reading and taking notes on assigned course materials, 1 hour reviewing recent class meeting and reading material, and 3.5 hours writing the research paper proposal, the paper itself, and/or preparing for exams. Some weeks may involve more or less time depending on whether an exam, paper proposal, or the paper itself is scheduled.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (I reserve the right to make changes in the below)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS +(from Staggenborg text); *(from Canvas)</u>
Sept. 5	Introduction to Collective Behavior and Social Movements	
Sept. 10	Collective Behavior and Social Movements	*Miller, "Perspectives on Collective Behavior....", pp. 21-42
Sept. 12	Fads and Fashion	*Aquirre, et al., "The Collective Behavior of Fads: The Characteristics, Effects, and Career of Streaking" *Why it sucks to play Pokemon Go if you're poor *Pokemon Go and the lifespan of fads
Sept. 17	Mass hysteria: "panics," crowds, etc.	*Johnson: Panic at the Who concert stampede *Seabrook: The Dangerous Power of Crowds
Sept. 19	Riots	*Waddington: Riots *Milwaukee riots fed by decades of African-American economic insecurity *You're Asian, Right? Why are you even here?
Sept. 24	Social movements, defined and theorized	+chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 26	What we study when we examine social movements	+chapter 3 *McAdam: Institution Building in the African-American Community, 1931-1954
Oct. 1	Movement participation	*Viterna: Pulled, Pushed, and Persuaded: Explaining Women's Mobilization into the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army
Oct. 3	Movement maintenance and outcomes	*McAdam: Tactical Innovation and the pace of insurgency *Ganz: Why David sometimes wins
Oct. 8	Movement frames and ideologies; movements and the mass media	+Review Staggenborg, pp. 49-53 *TBD
Oct. 10	Movements and social media	*Earl, et al. New Technologies and Social Movements *Bennett and Segerberg: The logic of connective action
Oct. 15	-Paper proposal discussion -Midterm exam review	
Oct. 17		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Oct. 22	Movements of the 60s	+chapter 4 *Morris: Birmingham confrontation reconsidered
Oct. 24	The Women's Movement	+chapter 5
Oct. 26	( Friday, no class...)	<b>Paper proposal due by 5pm</b>
Oct. 29	The LGBT Movement	+chapter 6
Oct. 31	The Environmental Movement	+chapter 7
Nov. 5	American Right-Wing Movements	+chapter 8
Nov. 7- Dec. 12	Topics to be determined by S343 students	Readings TBD

Friday, Nov. 16	<b>PAPER DUE (BEFORE MIDNIGHT IN CANVAS DROPBOX)</b>	
Tues. Dec. 18	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	10am-12pm in NWQ 1871

#### 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](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf>.

**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: <https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

**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](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\\_Discriminatory\\_Conduct\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Conduct_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: <https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

**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\\_Discriminatory\\_Conduct\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Conduct_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: <https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades>  
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at <https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/>

**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 08/2018