

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

## **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SOCIOLOGY 4355**

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### **Professor Contact Information**

*(Professor's name, phone number, email, office location, office hours, other information)*

**INSTRUCTOR: MERYL G. NASON**

**OFFICE: GR 2.612**

**TELEPHONE: (972) 883-6722**

**OFFICE HOURS: MW 12:30-2PM; R 315-3:45PM and by appt.**

**E-MAIL: [Mnason@UTDallas.edu](mailto:Mnason@UTDallas.edu)**

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

*(including required prior knowledge or skills)*

There are no course pre-requisites. However, this is an upper level sociology course and a basic knowledge of sociological concepts is assumed.

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### **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the sociological analysis of collective behavior and social movements. In the early part of the course we examine and present theories to explain elementary forms of collective behavior, such as rumors, crowds, panics, and fads that are a source of social change. The main portion of the course focuses on recent American social movements. We begin by examining theories of social movements and then draw from these perspectives to analyze a variety of contemporary social movements. to familiarize students with scholarly research and theories pertaining to the study of collective behavior and social movements.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

1. to familiarize students with scholarly research and theories pertaining to the study of collective behavior and social movements.
2. to familiarize students with a variety of collective behavior phenomena and with a number of recent American social movements;
3. to introduce students to research methods that allow them to apply the sociological perspective to understand contemporary social movements;
4. to encourage students to understand the significance of social movements and collective behavior processes for social change and to encourage them to examine their relevance for their own lives.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Blackwell, 2009.

Suzanne Staggenborg, Social Movements, Oxford U. Press, 2008.

### **ELECTRONIC RESERVE**

In addition and in an effort to reduce costs, I have placed a large number of required articles on electronic reserve as well.

### **Suggested Course Materials**

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

*(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)*

Week 1	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE
8/24-8/26	COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR Staggenborg (S): Chapter 1 Goodwin and Jasper (GJ): Chapter 1
Week 2	COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR (continued) TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
8/31-9/2	<b>Electronic Reserve (ER):</b> The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements edited by Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, Chapter 3. S: Chapter 2, pp. 11-15.

- Week 3            TRADITIONAL APPROACHES (continued)  
9/7-9/9            **NO CLASS, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**PAPER TOPIC DUE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 4            THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
9/14-9/16        **ER:** Waves of Protest: Social Movements Since the Sixties edited  
by Jo Freeman and Victoria Johnson. Chapter 2: Mobilizing the  
Disabled, pp. 25-47.
- Week 5            CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS:  
9/21-9/23        POLITICAL PROCESS MODEL AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION  
**ER:** The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements edited by  
Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, Chapter 6.  
**S:** Chapter 2, pp. 15-20.  
**GJ:** Chapters 5, 19
- Week 6            EXAM I  
9/28-9/30        **EXAM I: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 7            FRAMING  
10/5-10/7        **ER:** Robert D. Benford and David A. Snow, "Framing Processes  
and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment" *Annual  
Review of Sociology* 2000, 26:611-639.  
**S:** Chapter 3  
**GJ:** Chapters 6, 10 and 16
- Week 8            NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS  
10/12-10/14     **GJ:** 35  
**S:** Chapter 2, pp. 20-25.  
**ER:** Steven M. Buechler. "New Social Movement Theories" *The  
Sociological Quarterly*, Volume 36, Number 3, pp. 441-464 (1995).  
Phillip Sutton and Stephen Vertigans. "Islamic "New Social  
Movements"? Radical Islam, Al-Qaida and Social Movement  
Theory", *Mobilization*, Volume 11, No. 1, February 2006
- Week 9            THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
10/19-10/21     **S:** Chapter 4  
**GJ:** Chapters 2, 7, and 24  
**SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE, MONDAY OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 10          THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT  
10/26-10/28     **S:** Chapter 6  
**GJ:** Chapters, 3, 11, 15 and 34

**ER:** Susan Staggenborg and Verta Taylor, “Whatever Happened to the Women’s Movement” *Mobilization*, Volume 10, No. 1, February 2005.

Week 11      EXAM II  
11/2-11/4    **EXAM II: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th**

Week 12      THE PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS  
11/9-11/11    **ER:** Staggenborg—The PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT: Chapters 1, 2, 6, and, 11  
2, 6, and, 11  
Leslie King and Ginna Husting. “Anti-Abortion Activism in the U.S. and France: Comparing Opportunity Environments of Rescue Tactics” *Mobilization*, Volume 8, No. 3, October 2003.  
GJ: Chapter 14

Week 13      THE GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT  
11/16-11/18    S: Chapter 7  
GJ: Chapters 4 and 25.

Week 14      THE ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
11/23-11/25    S: Chapter 8  
GJ: Chapters 8 and 21.  
**ER:** The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements edited by Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, Chapter 26.  
**RESEARCH PROJECT DUE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Week 15      RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS  
11/30-12/2    **ER:** The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements edited by Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, Chapter 29.

Week 16      EXAM III  
12/7          **EXAM III: MONDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **Grading Policy**

*(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)*

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

Three Exams each worth 200 points	600 points
Research Project	300 points
Class Participation	100 <u>points</u>
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	1000 points

1. Exams: There will be three examinations for the course, the first the week

Of September 28th (take home portion due, in class portion), the second the week of November 2nd (take home portion due, in-class portion) and the third the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> (take home portion due, in class portion). Each will count 20% toward the final grade.

2. Research Project: Students will be required to complete a paper analyzing one social movement. The project should be a minimum of 10 pages in length and is worth 30% toward the final grade. (More information on the paper is available). Paper topics are due September 21st and papers are due November 23rd. The paper will **NOT** be accepted **LATE**.

3. Participation: Class participation will be worth 10% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly and come prepared.

## RESEARCH PROJECT

Each student is required to complete a research project which will be worth 30% of your final grade. Each student will select a social movement of his/her choice to analyze. The paper will be due on November 23rd. It will **NOT** be accepted **LATE**. Further information and guidelines will be available in a separate handout.

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### Course & Instructor Policies

*(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)*

The format will be lecture/discussion with the addition of visiting speakers and films. The instructor of this course makes several assumptions about the students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

1. Attend class on a regular basis.
2. Be prepared for class (i.e., have a writing instrument and paper or a computer in your possession; have read the assigned materials prior to class).
3. Participate in class. Students are expected to actively participate and will be assigned a grade for participation (10% of final grade). If something is covered in lecture or in the text or readings which you do not understand, ASK A QUESTION (chances are at least one or more of your colleagues will have the same or similar question). You will be held responsible for the assigned materials on the examinations, so it is in your best interest to ask questions.
4. Be present and prepared for all examinations. The term “prepared” in this context means not only having studied the materials you are to be tested on and showing up at the

appropriate time, but also having a BLUE BOOK, SCANTRON, and a Blue or Black Pen in your possession on the day of the exam.

### **MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not taking an exam or completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an Incomplete grade in the course. You **MUST** either telephone or e-mail me on the day of an exam if you will be absent in order to discuss the possibility of a makeup. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive a "0" for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. Students who request Incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author's work or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Undergraduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code.

Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of "0" (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

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**Field Trip Policies**  
**Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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## **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com), which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the

Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***