

University of North Texas at Dallas

Spring 2011

SYLLABUS

SOCI 3550: Collective Behavior 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology & Psychology	Division of	Liberal Arts & Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Steven L. Arxer		
Office Location:	Building 2, Room 321		
Office Phone:	972-338-1592		
Email Address:	steven.arxer@unt.edu		
Office Hours:	TR 1-4pm; Wed 4-7pm; or by appointment		
Classroom Location:	DAL2 101		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	TR 5:30pm-6:50pm		
Course Catalog Description:	Human behavior in sporadic and unstructured situations; theories and case studies of rumors, crowds, panics, riots, disasters, fads and crazes; links among collective behavior episodes, social movements and social change. Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1510 or equivalent.		
Required Text:	<p>Title: The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts Authors: Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper Year: 2003</p> <p>*Note: if you have a different edition of the text please notify the professor to make sure that your text will satisfy the requirements of the course</p> <p>**All other reading material will be provided by the professor in advance either electronically or in hardcopy in class</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them. In the course syllabus the text Social Movement Reader is abbreviated as G&J (for the authors' names, Goodwin & Jasper) 		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com		
Departmental Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the student will		
1	Be able to demonstrate knowledge of a substantive area within sociology		
2	Summarize basic issues in the area		
3	Compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations and middle range theories in the area		
4	Explain how sociology contributes to understanding of the area		
5	Summarize current research in the area		
6	Suggest specific policy implications of research and theories in the area		
Course Goals or Overview:	The goal of this course is to provide a general introduction of the interdisciplinary field of collective behavior. It is designed to help you engage with fundamental concepts that will allow you to understand the factors that shape collective behavior.		

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Know the basic theories related to the study of collective behavior.
2	Demonstrate the ability to explain the tendencies that contribute to the rise, maintenance, and decline of collective behavior.
3	Identify various perspectives relevant to collective behavior to analyze how collective movements function.
4	Offer empirical examples of collective behavior movements and their characteristics.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
<u>I. Introduction to Collective Behavior</u>	1/18
Intellectual History of Collective Behavior Locher, David "Introduction to Collective Behavior"	1/20-1/25
<u>II. Collective Behavior Theory</u>	1/27-2/1
Social Contagion Theory McPhail, Clark "Blumer's Theory of Collective Behavior"	
Emergent Norm Perspective Jack M. Weller and E. L. Quarantelli "Neglected Aspects of Collective Behavior"	2/3-2/8
Value-Added Theory Lewis, Jerry "A Study of the Kent State Incident"	2/10-2/15
Assembly, Sociocybernetic, and Individualist Approaches Levy, Linda "A Study of Sports Crowd Behavior"	2/17
<u>II. General Categories of Collective Behavior</u>	2/22
Violent Collective Behavior Documentary: American Experience: Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple	2/24-3/1
Consumers & Collective Behavior: Fads/Crazes Aguirre, B.E., et al "The Collective Behavior of Fads"	3/3-3/8
Rumors, Urban Myths and Urban Legends Joel Best and Gerald T. Horiuchi "The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends"	3/10
<i>Midterm hand-out</i>	
<u>III. Social Movements and Social Movement Theories</u> G&J: Part I Introduction	3/22-3/24
<i>Midterm due</i>	
When and Why Do Social Movements Occur G&J: Part II Introduction, Reading 2	3/29-3/31
Who Joins or Supports Movements? G&J: Introduction, Reading 6	4/5-4/7
Who Remains in Movements, and Who Drops Out? G&J: Introduction, Reading 11	4/12-4/14

What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? G&J: Introduction, Reading 13 PBS Documentary: The Last Abortion Clinic	4/19-4/21
How Do the State and Mass Media Influence Movements? G&J: Introduction, Reading 25	4/26-4/28
Why Do Movements Decline? G&J: Introduction, Reading 28	5/3-5/5
What Changes Do Movements Bring About? G&J: Introduction, Reading: Biographies (Martin Luther King Jr.) Movie, The Vernon Johns Story Research Paper Due	5/10
Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions.	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Reading Reviews (20%, 10 points possible/review)

To facilitate discussion and understanding of material, you will be expected to write 10 reviews over the course of the semester. Reviews should be written as 2 page overviews of the review article/reading of the day. Each review should strive to primarily identify the author(s)' key points, key terminology, key arguments and provide critical reflection about the work (especially in relation to other reading and ideas from class). In addition, each review should include at least 1 class discussion question that will be offered during class.

Participation (10%)

To facilitate discussion, students are expected to participate in class discussions. Participation involves attending class discussion and asking questions/answering questions about the assigned material. Attendance and active participation in discussion about assigned readings is essential to make our course work. The quality (not just quantity) of your contributions to the seminar will be weighed into your overall performance. In the event of serious illness or emergency, please contact me through email.

Midterm (40%)

There is one take-home midterm in which students will have a weekend to answer a series of questions. Questions will reflect major concepts, theories, debates, and empirical research on collective behavior. Midterms should be typed, double-spaced, using 12pt font. Length should be no less than 6 pages. While students are encouraged to discuss questions/answers together, plagiarism will be grounds for a failing grade

Paper (30%)

Students are expected to turn in research paper. This paper requires that students research a topic (of their choosing) from the perspective of collective behavior. For example, a student might examine a current event, books, popular culture, entertainment, the clothing industry, law, etc. using course material and other external sources. Paper should be typed, double-spaced, using 12pt font. Length should be no less than 8 pages.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Reading Reviews	10 Reviews at 10 points each, 20%	100
Class Participation	10%	50
Midterm	40%	200
Research Paper	1 Research Paper, 30%	150
Total:	100%	500

Grade Determination:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	90-100%	450-500
B	80-89%	400-449
C	70-79%	350-399
D	60-69%	300-349
F	Below 60%	299 or lower

** You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress. If you have questions about your grade or if you need documentation of your grade

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Any style guide may be used as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

Note: No extensions are given, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Note: If you come in late for an exam and another student has already turned in a completed exam, you cannot take the regular exam

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Classroom Policies

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.
5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**
6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **After 3 absences, 5 overall points will be deducted for every class period missed.**
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.