

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:	Wed 9am-12pm/1pm-2pm; T/TH 2:30pm-5pm, or by appointment		
Classroom Location:	DAL2 338		
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>	1/17
Intellectual History of Collective Behavior Locher, David "Introduction to Collective Behavior"	1/19
<u>II. Collective Behavior Theory</u>	1/24-1/26
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"	1/31-2/2
Value-Added Theory Lewis, Jerry "A Study of the Kent State Incident"	2/7-2/9
Assembly, Sociocybernetic, and Individualist Approaches Levy, Linda "A Study of Sports Crowd Behavior"	2/14-2/16
Exam 1 -- February 21	
<u>II. General Categories of Collective Behavior</u>	2/23
Violent Collective Behavior Documentary: American Experience: Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple	2/28-3/1
Consumers & Collective Behavior: Fads/Crazes Aguirre, B.E., et al "The Collective Behavior of Fads"	3/6-3/8
Rumors, Urban Myths and Urban Legends Joel Best and Gerald T. Horiuchi "The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends"	3/13-3/15
III. Social Movements and Social Movement Theories G&J: Part I Introduction Exam 2 – April 3	3/27-3/29
When and Why Do Social Movements Occur G&J: Part II Introduction, Reading 2	4/5-3/10
Who Joins or Supports Movements? G&J: Introduction, Reading 6	4/12-4/17
How Do the State and Mass Media Influence Movements? G&J: Introduction, Reading 25	4/19-4/24

What Do Movement Participants Think and Feel? G&J: Introduction, Reading 13 PBS Documentary: The Last Abortion Clinic	4/26
Who Remains in Movements, and Who Drops Out? G&J: Introduction, Vera Taylor's "Abeyance Structures"	5/1-5/3
Research paper due May 3	
Final Exam Tuesday May 8, 5:00pm-7:00pm	May 8
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

To facilitate discussion and understanding of material, you will be expected to write 5 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.

Exams

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

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, and an official citation style (APA , MLA, ASA). Length should be no less than 8 pages.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Reading Reviews	5 Reviews at 10 points each	50
Exams	3 at 50points each	150
Paper	1 at 50 points	50
Total:	100%	250

Grade Determination:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	90-100%	225-250
B	80-89%	200-224
C	70-79%	175-199
D	60-69%	150-174
F	Below 60%	149 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. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 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 for research papers so long as the style is used consistently throughout the paper.

Note: No extensions are given on any assignment, 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).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity 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 Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs.%20Education.%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

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.

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.

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.
7. Blackboard: *Copies of the syllabus, assignments and scores on exams, quizzes and the research project will be posted on Blackboard. Students may also access copies of the instructor's Powerpoint presentations. These presentations will usually be available to students one day prior to the date noted on the syllabus schedule.*

Classroom conduct: Tardiness and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Class will start on time, so please make sure you are present by 8:30 am. Please let an instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others. Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT-Dallas.

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 Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Optional Policies:

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard*
- *Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom*
- *Food & Drink in the Classroom*
- *Use of Laptops*
- *Grade of Incomplete, "I"*