CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
SOCI 386 - WINTER 2014

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 1:35 - 2:25 pm
STBIO S1/3

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents a series of basic concepts in social movement analysis to understand the formation, growth and decline of social movements. This course focuses on contemporary social movements, including the American civil rights movement, the women’s movement, the global justice movement, the indigenous movement, and the student movement. These movements will be analysed through key concepts such as political opportunity structure, social movement organisation, and collective identity. It also discusses themes such as the role of media, the impact of social movements, and the question of democracy. The cases exposed in the course are primarily based on social movements from Canada, the United States and Latin America. By the end of the course you should have a good understanding of the central theoretical perspectives in the study of social movements and its key concepts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Examination period</td>
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1) **Readings**

All students are expected to complete weekly readings by the end of the week. The readings are complementary to the material presented in lectures therefore you are expected to read them in order to be prepared to participate and engage in discussions. The following required book for this course is available at the university bookstore and on the reserve at the McGill library:


In addition to this book there are required articles available on My Courses.

2) **Participation and Conferences**

You are responsible for all announcements made in class, as well as for all course materials given out in class. Attendance and participation in conferences will be considered for the participation grade, as well as attendance to guest lectures. The conferences will be held on Friday:

- From 11:35 to 12:20 in Otto MAASS Room 328;
- From 12:35 to 1:20 in Leacock 14;
- From 1:35 to 2:20 in STBIO S1/3.

You must sign up for one of these conferences in during Week 2 – a list will be available on the door of my office. Be certain to follow the outlay of the syllabus carefully to know when you have conferences and when there is a film. Films will be shown in the regular lecture hall during normal scheduled class hours.

2) **Exams**

The **midterm exam** will cover all the material discussed in class (including the readings) up to the week preceding the exam; it will count for 20% of the final course grade. It will be a closed-books examination in class and will take place during regular lecture hours on February 27.

The **final exam** will cover the second half of the course and count for 30% of the final course grade. Although it will not include questions about the material discussed before the mid-term, it will assume that students have a general knowledge of this material and draw on it to answer the questions. You will be evaluated in the ability to use theories and concepts and apply them to the cases studied in the course. It will take place during the examination period.

4) **Term paper**

The term paper is worth 40% and is due on April 8 during the lecture period. The paper will be graded according to the argument, the structure, the content and the writing style.

There are two options for the research paper (more instructions will be provided in class):

1) You will write an **individual research paper** that applies the concepts and theories learned in class to analyse a specific social movement, a social movement organization, or a protest event. You can choose any organization, movement or event from any geographical region you want. If you choose something discussed in class (eg: the women’s movement) you are expected to go beyond course lectures and readings. The individual paper is to be 10 pages double-spaced (not including references) in Times 12 point font with 1 inch margins.
2) You will write a group paper (3 students) that creates and describes a social movement: its identity, demands, targets, repertoires of action, and mobilisation strategies (in regards of a specific and real social and political context duly documented). The group paper is to be 15 pages double-spaced (not including references) in Times 12 point font with 1 inch margins.

It is advised that, as you devise your project, you should speak with me or the TA to be certain that you are composing it correctly.

Use the ASA Format for referencing: [http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3asa.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3asa.pdf)

Your grade will be affected if the paper is turned in late as well as if it does not respect the instructions regarding format and length.

**RIGHT TO SUBMIT IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH**

Students are allowed to submit any written work in English or French according to McGill University's Charter of Students’ Rights.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.*
COURSE OUTLINE

PART I: THEORIES AND ISSUES

WEEK 1 - JANUARY 7, 9, 10: WHAT ARE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS?

WEEK 2 – JANUARY 14, 16, 17: WHY DO MOVEMENTS EMERGE, GROW AND DECLINE?

WEEK 3 – JANUARY 21, 23, 24: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE MEDIA
* Conferences on Friday January 31

WEEK 4 – JANUARY 28, 30, 31: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DEMOCRACY
Access online: [http://uic.edu/orgs/cwluherstory/jofreeman/joreen/tyranny.htm]
* Conferences on Friday

WEEK 5 – FEBRUARY 4, 6, 7: IMPACT OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
* Conferences on Friday
PART II: CASES

WEEK 6 – FEBRUARY 11, 13, 14: THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
* Film on Friday: “Eyes on the Prize,” episode 4

WEEK 7 – FEBRUARY 18, 20, 21: THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” April 16, 1963. (February 11)
Martin Luther King Jr., “I Have a Dream,” August 28, 1963. (February 11)
* Conferences on Friday

WEEK 8 – FEBRUARY 25, 27, 28: REVIEW AND MIDTERM
MIDTERM EXAM: FEBRUARY 27

Week 9 – March 4, 6, 7: Study Break

WEEK 10 – MARCH 11, 13, 14: THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT
* No conferences on Friday: regular class period

WEEK 11 – MARCH 18, 20, 21: THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT
* Conferences on Friday
**WEEK 12 – MARCH 25, 27, 28: THE GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT**


* Conferences on Friday

**WEEK 13 – APRIL 1, 3, 4: THE ABORIGINAL MOVEMENT**


* No conferences on Friday: regular class period

**WEEK 14 – APRIL 8, 10, 11: THE STUDENT MOVEMENT**


* Conferences on Friday (revision for final)

****TERM PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON APRIL 8**