

Syllabus

Social Movements, Social Change and Work Summer 2011

Course Instructor:

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Learning Objectives

As a result of engaging in the course, students will:

- 1. Analyze the social and historical contexts which have shaped their experiences and perspectives of the world.
- 2. Understand social movements and their relationship to changes in the world of work.
- 3. Identify the relationship between social movements and power.
- 4. Make qualitative judgments of 1 social movement.

Objectives above relate to the following overall SAS learning outcome goals:

- Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.
- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.
- Employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings.

Course Requirements

Reading and Video Assignments

All required and suggested reading and audio/visual assignments are uploaded into the online course shell.

Students will be expected to read uploaded materials and watch videos linked within the course.

Writing Assignments

1. Introduction and Personal Turning Point

Organized in 3 parts, students are required to offer a biography, identify and describe a social issue around which a social movement has been formed, and describe a social or political issue that had an impact on shaping their opinions/ideas/attitudes. Maximum 1000 Words

2. Changing Forms of Employment and the Impact on Workers

Organized in 2 parts, students reflect on required text and video associated with the topic of informal economies and answer questions; students choose 2 sections of a required website to investigate and present 4 key concepts about informal work that they learned from the sections

2. My Social Movement

Students write about the social or political issue they feel most passionately about; search the internet for a social movement organization that responds to their chosen issue; explain reasoning for choosing the organization; develop a description of the movement/organization according to instructor created guidelines. Maximum 1500 words

Summer '11

Asynchronous Forums

There are 3 forums during the semester.

Students engage in an academic dialogue associated with topics being addressed within units I and II. A minimum of 4 comments per forum is required. Forums are asynchronous. Students can participate at anytime of the day within the time parameters of the forum's first comment by and general open period.

Students are responsible for creating back and forth dialogues within each forum area. The instructor supports the creation of dialogues by presenting questions/topics that are most relevant to the topical area being address during the week. Critical thinking and collaborative processing of information is expected as well as ongoing student participation in forums.

Unit Quiz

The assessment for knowledge gained in Unit III: Movements and Power is a quiz that consists of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. A study guide for preparation for the quiz is provided.

Grading

A final grade is based on a 1000 point system. Each assignment is worth a specific number of points. Total points accumulated determines final course grade.

Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory
1000 - 900 Points = A	899 - 870 Points = B+	799 - 770 Points = C+
	869 - 800 Points = B	769 – 700 Points = C
Poor		
699 - 670 Points = D+;	669 - 600 Points = D;	599 and below = F

Item % of Grade	Assignment and Associated Points	
	Introduction and Personal Turning Point - 100 points	
Writing Assignments 50%	Informal Economy Writing assignment – 100 points	
	My Social Movement - 300 Points	
Quiz 20%	Unit III: - 200 points	
Forums 30%	Asynchronous Threaded Discussions - 300 points	
100%	TOTAL	

Policies & Procedures

Class Sessions

- 1. The course week begins on **Wednesdays** for all weeks except week 1 where students are given an extra day to become oriented to the course and the online venue.
 - Students are expected to enter the course for the first time the first day of the semester,
 Tuesday, June 1.
 - The last day students will be expected to log into the course prior to final grades being posted is Tuesday, July 27.
- 2. A weekly message will be sent to each student as well as uploaded into the course weekly messages file in document sharing each Wednesday. Information about content or assignment procedure is available within the weekly message.

3. Each week is 7 days in length. Students may enter the course and engage in coursework at any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Due Dates

All assignments, unless otherwise indicated on the calendar, must be completed by Tuesdays
 11:59 pm Eastern Time. A course calendar identifying each due date is available in the course shell.

2. Late Assignments

Writing Assignments

The 3 writing assignments detailed in the Course Assignments section of the syllabus (p 1) will be accepted up to 24 hours late (from 12:01 am Wednesday morning to 11:59 Wednesday night). When an assignment is up to 24 hours late a 15% late penalty will be assessed.

It is in the student's best interest not to be late on a writing assignment.

No written assignment will be accepted after 11:59 pm Wednesday. No exceptions. It is in the best interest of the student not to submit a late assignment.

<u>Forums</u> lock after 11:59 pm on Tuesdays, no comments can be posted. Missed Forum points cannot be made up.

Unit III Quiz

The Unit III quiz will lock at 11:59 pm, Tuesday, July 13. The quiz cannot be made up.

Extra Credit

There is only 1 means to earn extra credit points. If a student begins a forum dialogue – begins a new thread – and then returns to the ongoing discussion which he/she began and interacts in a substantive way with 1 or more peers – 8 extra credit participation points can be earned per forum. A maximum of 24 points can be earned during the semester.

Checking Email

Instructor's Email Checking Policy

Unless you receive advance notification, the instructor will check her email by 10:00 am EST on most workdays. If a student sends a comment or question, the student's instructor will answer the email within 24 hours.

Students Email Checking Policy

It is the responsibility of the student to check for incoming course related messages AT LEAST 2 times a week. Once a week – on **Wednesday mornings** – the instructor sends each student a weekly message. In addition, students may receive messages from the instructor regarding a variety of topics throughout the semester. Forgetting or being unable to check your email is not an excuse! Email messages are always sent to the student's default email address for the course.

Course Topics & Assignments by Week

Unit I: Social Movement Basics

Week 1: Introduction & Personal Turning Point – May 31 – 7 June

Learning objective: Connect social influence to personal experience, outlook and behavior.

Assignments:

Review home page of course.

<u>Videos</u>

Instructor Presentations – Instructor Orientation to the Course; Instructor Introduction and Turning Point

Writing Assignment

Introduction & Personal Turning Point

Week 2: Social Movement Basics - June 8 - 14

Learning objective: Understand the key components of social movements in the current context.

Assignments:

PowerPoint Presentation

Globalisation and Social Movements.

Video

Francis, Nick and Marc (2006). Black Gold: wake up and smell the coffee. Idfa's delicatessen.

Reading

Smith, Sterling (2006). Let's Organise! ILO/ICA/ICFTU. Excerpt: The Co-operative Movement pp 44 – 52.

http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/coffee/cooperatives.html

Forum 1

The Fair Trade Movement: coffee growers' co-operatives.

Unit II: Movements and Work

Week 3: Economic Changes and Work: The Growth of the Informal Economy - June 15 -21 **Learning Objective:** Understand changing forms of employment and the impact on workers.

Assignments:

<u>Vide</u>o

Instructor Video Clip – Unit II Introduction Build Rights Build Unions (Part 1 of 3)

Reading

Instructor Created Text - An Introduction to the Informal Economy

Web Work

Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) website

Writing Assignment

Changing Forms of Employment and the Impact on Workers

Week 4: Topic continued from week 3 - June 22 - 28

Learning Objective: Analyze key perspectives around informal work and labor union organization.

Assignments:

Video

Build Rights Build Unions (Parts 2 & 3)

Reading

Instructor Created Text - An Introduction to Labor Union Organization in the Informal Economy

Forum 2

The Informal Economy

Week 5: Economic Collapse and Work: The National Movement of Recovered Companies of Argentina (ERT) - June 29 – July 5

Learning Objective: Examine relationship between movement and power from workplace to society.

Assignments:

Video

Lewis, A., Klein, N. (2006). The Take, First Run Features, 87 minutes.

Reading

Heywood, A. (2005). Political Theory 3ed, Palgrave MacMillian, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Excerpts: Rights, Obligations and Citizenship (pg 184)

Social or Active Citizenship (p 209 -212)

Additional, non-compulsory readings:

New Socialist article: Argentina's Worker Recovered Enterprise Movement

Citizen Action in the America's article: Worker Run Factories: from Survival to Economic Solidarity

Forum 3

The Informal Economy

Unit III: Movements and Power

Week 6: Protests and Political Challenge - July 6 - 12

Learning Objective: Identify and analyze political purpose of social movements.

Assignments:

Video

Instructor Introduction - Politics and Power

Reading

Brecher, J; Costello, T & Smith, B (2002). Globalisation from below: the power of solidarity South End

Press, Cambridge MA.

Excerpt: The power of social movements (and its secret)pp 19 - 31.

Web Work

The April 6 Movement in Egypt.

Mohammed Bouazizi: the fruit vendor who brought down the Tunisian government.

Unit III Quiz

Unit IV: Movements and You

Week 7 & 8: Researching and Describing a Social Movement - July 13 - 22

Learning Objective: Critically examine assumptions, methods and arguments and make qualitative judgment of a social movement.

Assignments:

Reading

Independent research regarding selected social movement

Must also use:

Brecher, J; Costello, T & Smith, B (2002). Globalisation from below: the power of solidarity South End

Press, Cambridge MA.

Excerpt: The power of social movements (and its secret)pp 19 - 31.

Writing Assignment

My Social Movement - Final Project