

# *Social Movements, Theory and Practice: ANTH 350*

Oxford College of Emory University

Dr. Valerie Singer

Fall 2006

*“Never doubt that a small dedicated group of individuals can change the world;  
indeed it is the only thing that ever has”  
- Margaret Mead*

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(Feel free to call me at home between 9 AM and 9 PM)

## **Course Description:**

Broadly defined, social movements are people's collective efforts to change society. Social movements, small or large, have occurred in every time and in every culture. This course focuses on issues and dynamics of social movement organizations and of activism. The class shall raise questions that have been repeatedly asked by social movement analysts and activists. How do social movements originate? Why and how do individuals become activists? What forces challenge or help sustain movements? What dynamics lead some people to life long activism and others to burn out? How do movements interact with their wider communities? How do movements define their goals? How do they choose their organizational style, their tactics and strategies? We will be looking at depth at three movement case studies, from Georgia, Great Britain, and Brazil. Through these three movements we will be analyzing different approaches to environmentalism and social justice concerns. In addition, each student will have the opportunity to investigate a current movement of their choice as their term paper topic. As a sophomore-writing requirement, the course will be writing intensive.

## **Required Texts:**

- Polluted Promises, Environmental Racism and the Search for Justice in a Southern Town by Melissa Checker
- The Social Movement Reader, Cases and Concepts  
by James Jasper and Jeff Goodwin
- To Inherit the Earth, the Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil  
by Angus Wright and Wendy Wolford
- Earth First! And the Anti-Roads Movement, Radical Environmentalism and Comparative Social Movements by Derek Wall
- Various articles on e-reserve

### **Grade Break Down:**

Attendance and participation	20%
Quizzes:	10%
Weekly response papers:	20%
Final:	20%
Term paper:	30%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Rough Draft	10%
Final Term Paper	15%
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Total	100%

### **Grading**

Many students worry about professors' subjectivity in grading. Please remember: I NEVER *give* grades, students *earn* their grades, irrespective of how I feel about them as individual people. The key to an A in this course is hard work and comprehension of the material, not the 'correct opinion' or being buddies with Dr Singer. Please note that I WILL be grading using the plus-minus system.

100-93% = A	79-77% = C+
92-90% = A-	76-73% = C
89-87% = B+	72-70% = C-
86-83% = B	69-60% = D
82-80% = B-	59% and below = F

### **Academic Honesty:**

Both Oxford College and I take the matter of academic honesty very seriously. I would like to remind you that you are required to follow the Honor Code. Any suspected breaches to the Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Council for review and possible disciplinary action. This includes acts of plagiarism. I have found in the past that many college students do not understand what does and does not constitute plagiarism. Be aware that an ignorant mistake is not always an innocent mistake. Student papers must be written without the help or collaboration of other anthropology students, though you are welcome to get writing help at the writing center. We will be discussing what constitutes plagiarism and proper citation methods later in the semester.

### **Response Papers**

Every Thursday you will have a reading response paper due. Papers should be approximately two pages long, and demonstrate your engaged, thoughtful, reflections on the readings. I will not be giving you a split content/writing grade on these papers, but I will be editing your writing mistakes on the first several papers. Good writing is an essential ingredient of a good paper. For some papers I will give you questions to consider, while for others I will look for you to discuss what you feel is most significant in the text. At the end of the semester, I will count your 10 highest response paper grades, and drop the lowest few. Responses paper are due in class each Thursday, and ***late papers will NOT be accepted.*** Papers will be graded on a check plus, check, check minus basis.

### Quizzes

You will be quizzed each Tuesday on the readings. These reading quizzes will ask questions which are obvious and simple to answer if you have done the readings, and otherwise impossible. They will all be multiple choice or one sentence short answer questions. I will count your top ten quiz grades at the end of the semester for this 10% of your final grade. There will be 12 or 13 quizzes given, so I will drop your lowest 2-3 grades. Quizzes can not be made up.

### Term Paper

For the term paper, I am asking you to conduct an in-depth study of a modern social movement. Ideally, your paper should frame a specific question about the movement. Your final paper should be approximately 10 pages long, and based on a minimum of 10 references. Of these ten, at least seven should be scholarly sources. I welcome you to use the internet and other movement-based sources for additional references. The term paper will be due in stages:

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Submit topic proposal for my approval (not graded)

November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Submit annotated bibliography on your ten sources

November 28<sup>th</sup>: Submit required rough draft

December 12<sup>th</sup>: Submit final term paper by 5 PM

Both the rough draft and the final will be given a split grade – 50% for content and 50% for writing. ***I will NOT accept a final paper without previously receiving an annotated bibliography and rough draft.*** Late papers will lose one full letter grade for each 24 hours late, including Saturday and Sunday. This is true for each stage of the paper.

### Attendance and Participation:

Participation is a **large** part of your grade in this course. I expect you to come to class each day ready to discuss the assigned readings. The majority of this class will operate in a seminar style. I expect you to take notes during class discussion as well as the occasional lecture. You share the responsibility with me of creating a classroom atmosphere in which all students feel free to participate, and able to engage in critical, yet constructive dialog and debate. This means you need to not only participate yourself, but encourage the participation of your fellow students. It is my belief that students are able to learn a great deal from each other, not only from the professor and course materials. I will be taking attendance (as you obviously can't participate if you don't attend!). You will each be allowed 2 absences during the semester. Beyond two, each additional absence will lose you one point of your final grade. Of course I make exceptions in highly exceptional circumstances (severe illness, death in the family). If you find yourself needing to be absent for exceptional circumstances, I expect to get notification from you asap by email.

### Course Schedule

(Subject to change – all changes will be posted on class learnlink conference)

August 31

Introductions

September 5	Social Movement Reader (here forward SMR) Chapters 1-4 (Jasper and Goodwin; Blumberg; Freeman; D'Emilio)
September 7	SMR Chapters 6 and 10 (McAdam; Hirsch) Loeb: <i>Making Our Lives Count</i> (e-reserve) Cornell West <i>Prisoners of Hope</i> (e-reserve)
September 12	SMR Chapters 11 and 14 (Whittier; Jasper) Ida Susser: <i>the Cosmopolitan to the Personal: Women's Mobilization to Combat HIV/AIDS</i> (e-reserve)
September 14	SMR Chapters 20 and 21 (Alinsky; Morris) Walter Wink <i>Jesus and Alinsky</i> (e-reserve)
September 19	<b><i>The Anti-Globalization Movement</i></b> SMR Chapter 19 (Finnegan) Kimberly Grimes <i>Changing the Rules of Trade with Global Partnerships: The Fair Trade Movement</i> (e-reserve) Film: This is What Democracy Looks Like
September 21	Matthew Arnold <i>Culture and Anarchy</i> Antonio Gramsci <i>the Prison Notebooks</i> June Nash: <i>Defying Deterritorialization: Autonomy Movements Against Globalization</i> (all on e-reserve)
September 26	SMR chapters 22 and 30 (Bernstein; Gamson)
September 28	SMR chapter 16 Snow and Binford <i>Framing</i> (e-reserve)
October 3	SMR chapters 28, 29 (Sexton; Epstein)
October 5	SMR chapter 31 (Gamson) Loeb <i>Unforseen Fruits and Dealing with Burnout</i> (e-reserve) <b><i>Term paper proposals due</i></b>
October 10	Fall Break – No Class
October 12	Polluted Promises chapters 1 & 2
October 17	Polluted Promises chapters 3 & 4
October 19	Polluted Promises chapter 5
October 24	Polluted Promises chapters 6 & 7

October 26                Earth First! Chapters 1 & 2

***Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>: Fieldtrip to Augusta GA (to be confirmed)***

October 31                Earth First! Chapters 3 & 4

November 2                Earth First! Chapters 5 & 6  
***Annotated Bibliography due***

November 7                Earth First! Chapter 7  
John Jordon, *the Art of Necessity, the Subversive Imagination of Anti-Road Protest and Reclaim the Streets* (e-reserve)

November 9                Earth First! Chapters 8 & 9

November 14                The School of the Americas  
Christian Smith: *Resisting Reagan* (e-reserve)

November 16                SOA  
Dr. Singer at Anthropology Meetings

***Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> – Fieldtrip to Columbus, GA***  
***School of Americas Watch annual protest and rally***

November 21                To Inherit the Earth preface and introduction – page 55

November 23                Thanksgiving

November 28                To Inherit the Earth pages 55-99  
***Rough draft of term paper due***

November 30                To Inherit the Earth Chapter 2

December 5                To Inherit the Earth Chapter 3

December 7                To Inherit the Earth Chapter 4

December 12                Last Day of Class  
***Term Paper Due***  
***Take Home Final Exam distributed***

December 15                ***Take Home Final Exam Due***

Hakim Bey from TAZ

James Scott from Weapons of the Weak

Robin Kelley from Race Rebels

Adolph Reed Jr from Why is there no black political movement?

Riot Grrrl, Riot Grrrl is.....

Kathleen Hanna, from an interview in Punk Planet

Barbara Epstein The Politics of Prefigurative Community

Ligia Simonian: Political Organization Among Indigenous Women of the Brazilian State of Roraima: Constraints and Prospects

Robert Albrow The Water is Ours, Carajo! Deep Citizenship in Bolivia's Water War

Paul Roget Loeb:

Chapter 1 Making Our Lives Count

Chapter 2 We Don't Have to be Saints

Chapter 5 Unforeseen Fruits

Chapter 10 Dealing with Burnout