

Social Movements, Theory and Practice

Initial syllabus (subject to change)

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

- Margaret Mead

ANT 385, Special Topics
Oxford College of Emory University
Fall 2004
Dr Valerie Singer

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(Feel free to call me at home, however I ask that you don't call after 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 also specifically examine the role of music in social movements. The course will use two case studies, the Brazilian Landless Movement, and the movement to close the School of the Americas to explore these issues in greater depth. 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. There will be no exams, and class will be run in a seminar style.

Required Texts:

- Soul of a Citizen, Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time
by Paul Roget Loeb
- 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
- School of the Americas, Military Training and Political Violence in the Americas
by Lesley Gill

Grade Break Down:

Term paper		
Annotated Bibliography	10%	
Rough Draft	5%	
Final Term Paper	20%	
Term paper total		35%
Attendance and Participation		25%
Almost-weekly response papers: 8 at 5% each		40%
Total:		100%

Please note I WILL be using plus/minus in your final grades.

Response Papers

There will be eight reading response papers due over the course of the semester. Each one will be worth 5% of your final grade. They should be approximately three pages each, 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. 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.

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 8-10 pages, and based on a minimum of seven references. Of these seven, at least five 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 8 th :	Submit topic proposal for my approval (not graded)
November 1 st :	Submit annotated bibliography on your seven sources (worth 10% of final course grade.)
November 17 th :	Submit required rough draft (worth 5% of final course grade)
December 7 th :	Submit final term paper by 5 PM (worth 20% of final course grade)

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.*

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. Since this is a small class, I am hoping it will be highly interactive. I will be watching attendance (as you obviously can't participate if you don't attend!) and you will each be allowed 3 absences during the

semester. Beyond three, each additional absence will lose you one point of your final grade. Of course I make exceptions in highly exceptional circumstances.

Academic Honesty:

Both Oxford College and I take academic honesty quite seriously. Please refer to the Honor Code and know that you are bound by this code for this course. I have found in teaching that many students do not always understand what exactly constitutes plagiarism. We will discuss proper citation and the common pitfalls of “accidental” plagiarism later in the semester.

Course Schedule and Readings:

August 25	Course Introduction
August 27	<i>Theories and Practice of Movements</i> Soul of a Citizen pp 1-34
August 30	Social Movement Reader (here forward SMR) pp 3-31 (Blumberg and Freeman)
September 1	SMR chapter 10 (Hirsch)
September 3	SMR chapter 15 (Jasper) Response Paper # 1 due
September 6	SMR chapter 16 (McCarthy and Zald)
September 8	SMR chapter 19 (Finnegan) Film: This is What Democracy Looks Like
September 10	SMR chapter 20 (Alinsky) Response Paper # 2 due
September 13	SMR chapters 21 and 22 (Morris and Bernstein)
September 15	Soul of a Citizen chapters 2 and 3
September 17	SMR pp 49-64 (McAdam) Response Paper # 3 due
September 20	Soul of a Citizen chapter 4, and SMR pp 129-133 and chapter 14 (Mansbridge)
September 22	SMR chapter 31 and Soul chapter 5
September 24	Soul chapters 6 and 7

Guest Speaker: Susan Ashmore (to be confirmed)

September 27	Soul chapters 8 and 9
September 29	Soul chapter 10, SMR chapter 11
October 1	SMR chapter 12 Response Paper # 4
October 4	<i>Music in Social Movements</i> “Movements and Cultural Change” from Jamison and Eyerman (on e-reserve)
October 6	“Popular Music and Community” from Mattern (on e-reserve)
October 8	Term Paper Proposal due Reading TBA
October 11	Fall Break, no class
October 13	Response Paper # 5 Reading TBA
October 15	<i>Case Study: The Brazilian Landless Movement</i> To Inherit: Preface and Introduction
October 18	To Inherit: pp 1-55
October 20	To Inherit pp 55-99 Film: <i>Raízes Forte</i>
October 22	To Inherit pp 101-179
October 25	To Inherit pp 181-261
October 27	To Inherit pp 263-307
October 29	To Inherit pp 307-339 Response Paper # 6
November 1	SMR chapter 27 (Gitlin) Term Paper Annotated Bibliography Due
November 2	<u>ELECTION DAY (VOTE VOTE VOTE)</u>

November 3	Religion and Activism: the US Sanctuary Movement Coutin, Smith, on e-reserve
November 5	Coutin, on e-reserve
November 8	<i>Case Study: Anti-School of the Americas Movement</i> SOA
November 10	SOA
November 12	SOA
November 15	SOA Guest Speaker....?
November 17	SOA (Fieldtrip?) Term Paper Rough Draft Due
November 19	SOA (Gone to AAA)
November 22	SOA Response Paper # 7
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Break, No Class
November 29	TBA
December 1	TBA
December 3	Soul chapters 11 and 12
December 6	Last Class Response paper #8 due
December 7	Final Term Paper Due