

Social Movements: Theory and Practice

GOV 370S 38785
Spring 2021

Instructor: Shannon Bow O'Brien, PhD
Meeting Time: MWF noon-1pm
Location: BUR 106
This class is in a room which has Lectures Online enabled. All lectures will be recorded and available via Lectures Online (or taped if necessary, by professor) on Canvas. You do not have to attend class if you are uncomfortable doing so.

Assignments:
All papers, assignments and tests will be online to avoid cross-contamination.

Student Hours:
I only have scheduled(booked) 15-minute appointments (not drop in) this semester to help with social distancing.
Online: I will have scheduled (booked) 15-minute appointments on Tuesday/Thursday from 10:30-noon.
In person: By Appointment. Just email me to set it up.
All appointments (online) are booked in 15-minute increments.

Book ALL Meetings here: <https://calendly.com/professorobrien/>

Note: I will add more times if deemed necessary and they will be announced on canvas.

Email: shannonbow@utexas.edu
Be sure to include something about the noon Social Movements class in the subject line. I am teaching Social Movements, Urban Politics and Engineering Communications this semester so an email saying 'question about class' needs to be more specific.

Please routinely check Canvas for this class. I post Powerpoint slides, notes and information I feel are important to the class. In addition, we will post your grades online.

Course Description:
This course is about social movements. Social movements involve groups of people organizing or coalescing around issues. This course is designed to be an introduction to the topic. Groups of people have been organizing together towards joint goals for centuries. People with differing opinions about actions, policies, and behaviors want to have their voice heard about their concerns. Social movements often develop when a large enough number of people with similar problems come together. Some movements are total failures. Some succeed and thrive and others succeed and subside. Still, many others fall somewhere between success and failure. This course plans to introduce broad ideas about social movements, raise important questions, and help students develop a better understanding about them. Every movement is different, but elements within them can be categorized and understood. The analysis of these elements can give you the tools to look at movements or groups within society and make educated guesses about their long term viability.

The literature of social movements can be very theoretical and difficult to decipher. The class will only have 1 assigned book for the semester. This book is a compilation of many important articles, papers, and readings regarding social movements.

Required Readings:

There is ONE (1) book required for this course.

The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts, 3rd edition. Edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper, Publisher: Wiley Blackwell, 2015 ISBN: 978-1-118-72979-3 (also available as an ebook)

Note: I am using the 3rd edition. I used the 2nd edition in previous semesters. 25% of the readings were replaced between the 2nd and 3rd editions. Translation: Don't buy 2nd edition.

If I decide to skip specific readings in the sections, I will announce it on Canvas.

I also reserve the right to assign additional readings from time to time if I feel they are needed. Any additional readings will be added Canvas and also announced in class.

Grades: tests, two written assignments

Grades will based on the following:

Test 1 March 5 (Friday released at 1:30pm) 30%
 March 8 (Monday due by 11:59pm)

Test 2 May 5 (Wednesday released at 1:30pm) 30%
 May 7 (Friday due by 11:59pm)

Weekly Online Quizzes 5%

Paper Assignments:

Paper Assignment 1 **February 22 (MONDAY)** worth 5%

Paper 2 Topic Submission Deadline: **March 1 (MONDAY)** worth 1%

Paper 2: Executive Summary of a Social Movement

or Interview with a Member of a Social Movement **April 19 (MONDAY)** worth 29%

If attendance becomes extremely low, or if I think pop quizzes are in order, I may begin to take attendance or give quizzes. If I do exercise this option, I will announce it in class and on Canvas as well as with the re-weighted grade scale. However, attendance is NOT required for this course.

I also reserve the right to make any changes to the grading system I see fit during the semester. This may include, but is not limited to additional paper assignments (if I determine they are needed), or moving the test dates to accommodate unforeseen circumstances (think hurricanes and natural disasters, not doctor's appointments).

Grade Scale:

The University uses a plus/minus system. Here is the scale I will use for the class for grades. I do NOT round up or negotiate grades. You will receive your earned grade based on performance.

A:	93-100	C+:	77-79.99
A-:	90-92.99	C:	73-76.99
B+:	87-89.99	C-:	70-72.99
B:	83-86.99	D+:	67-69.99
B-:	80-82.99	D:	63-66.99

D:- 60-62.99

F: Less than 60

Paper Assignments

You will have 2 paper assignments. These assignments will be posted on Canvas prior to their due date and passed out in class.

ONLY *paper copies* of the assignments will be accepted.

Late papers will be penalized. For every calendar day a paper is late (including weekends), it will be penalized 5% of the total grade a day until 50%. Additional late penalties will not be assessed after 50% though you may be graded lower than 50% for incorrect information.

Paper Assignments 1 will be short assignments where you will be asked to fill in information about specific social movements. The idea is to help make you aware of different aspects of groups and their history. You will be given a choice of movements for these assignments.

Paper Assignment 2: Two options: Executive Summary or Interview

This semester, I created a deadline to submit a topic for assignment 2. It is designed to encourage you to think about the project at least a couple weeks before it is due (as opposed to the night before). The form will be available about a week before it is due. You will be expected to write a paper/project on the topic you provide unless I expressly allow you to change topic.

Executive Summary of a Social Movement: Think term paper but with sections For this assignment, I will ask you to create a briefing about a social movement. It must adhere to reality or an approved fantasy world (translation: it has to be based in the real world or if you really really want to create a social movement in a non-reality world, it must be a genre I'm familiar with and requires pre-clearance.) I will provide an outline on Canvas that will give you the sections I would like you to develop and expand. I will ask you to develop a movement, explain its organization, viability, and other aspects based on the tools you have learned in class.

Interviewing a member of a social movement: In this assignment, you may interview a person in a social movement about their activities. I will provide a list of questions for you to use and you will craft a paper using these responses and other information about the group they were involved with)

I'm expecting the papers for either topic to run between 8-15 pages. The executive summaries will run longer in page count because you are able to put your separate topics on different pages whereas the interview paper would be a more traditional organized paper (Translation: I'm expecting the interview papers around 8-9 pages while the executive summaries should hit closer to 14-15 pages since you can technically get away with half a page on some of the summary sections).

EXAMS

Two Exams will be given. They will cover material presented in lectures and in the readings from the text, as well as any other material assigned/presented in class (including videos if I show any). The final exam is **NOT** cumulative and will only cover material presented since the previous exam. However, most of concepts in this course build upon each other so you will be expected to retain information from earlier portions of the class.

The exams may consist of short answer, short essay, or matching.

The test days are fixed and announced the first day of class. They will not be changed or negotiated. If these test days do not fit your personal schedule, do **NOT** enroll in this course. There are too many students in this course to work with you to make these dates fit vacations, trips, or other such matters. While I will abide by university approved absences and work with students, make up exams may not be the same exam given to the majority of the class and could be an essay exam if I decide one is best to test the information.

Test 1 and Assignments 1 & 2 can only be questioned or challenged for 2 weeks after the date the grades are released on Canvas. If you don't look at them, the time still starts counting. If the grade is not questioned or challenged in this time frame, it stands as recorded. This is designed to encourage students to retrieve their papers and also to not question grades in May that were handed back in February because they decide they do not like their final class grade.

Any material for this class may not be uploaded onto 3rd party websites without the professor's explicit permission. If you do so, it will be considered a violation of the honor code. The professor has the right (even after the class is completed) to submit these violations to Judicial Affairs for adjudication.

Late papers are only accepted until May 2, 2021. No paper assignments will be accepted after that day.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

You will be expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code: *The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.*

Though obvious, cheating is not allowed on any assignments or exams. Cheating involves transmitting or receiving any unauthorized information from any electronic device, paper, hand signals, or other means of communication during a test. Plagiarism is also prohibited. It refers to copying any work from any source (electronic, paper, etc) without noting/citing where it is originally from. It is important to note that using ideas (and not just quotes) from other sources without proper citation also counts as plagiarism. Any assignments turned in will be assumed to be the final version of the assignment and any inappropriate material will be considered intentional and not accidental.

You will be allowed to use open book and open note for the exams online. If we discover any student using or receiving messages during the exam (unauthorized collaboration), they will automatically fail the exam and be referred to the proper University authorities for cheating. Any student caught cheating/using notes/communicating with others during (or if we later discover) an exam will fail the test and will be reported to the proper authorities.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Canvas

I will attempt to use Canvas as a way to provide information to the class. In the past, I have regularly made RTF versions of my Powerpoint slides available prior to class. However, if I encounter problems utilizing Canvas, I may shift my materials (including test guides and other things) to another website devoted to making material available to the class. I will announce any changes of this sort to the class.

I will try to post on Canvas review sheets prior to each exam. These sheets should not be considered the definitive study guide for the test. Rather, they are a list of major concepts and ideas you should definitely know for the exam.

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Safety and Class Participation/Masks: We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the benefit of everyone, this means that all students are required to follow these important rules.

- Every student must wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings at all times.**

- Wearing a recommended protective face mask at all times when inside university buildings will be mandatory except when alone in a private office, eating in a campus dining facility or when students are in their own residence hall rooms. UT will encourage compliance by increasing awareness and fostering a spirit of cooperation. Students who refuse to follow directives to wear a mask will be referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. More information on how you can help keep our campus healthy this Fall can be found here: [“Protect Texas Together.”](#)
- **Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening.** This means that each class day in which on-campus activities occur, students must upload certification from the symptom tracking app and confirm that they completed their symptom screening for that day to Canvas. Students should not upload the results of that screening, just the certificate that they completed it. If the symptom tracking app recommends that the student isolate rather than coming to class, then students must not return to class until cleared by a medical professional.
- Information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms can be found here (https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/images/pdf/HANDOUT_SocialDistancingToIsolation_COVID-19_2020.pdf).

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If a student is not wearing a cloth face-covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university's Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering must follow the procedures for obtaining an accommodation working with [Services for Students with Disabilities](#). (<https://orientation.utexas.edu/students-with-disabilities>)

Additional information

Do NOT phone or email me about a grade (i.e. "What did I get?"). We will post grades electronically as soon as practical.

If you need extra time on a test and/or require special physical accommodations, please contact me in confidence as soon as possible at the beginning of the course. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs within the guidelines set forth by the University.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at
<http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>

Make-up exams/Excused Absences

Absences on exam days may be excused if the student provides verifiable documentation of accident, illness, or university or legal obligation. Unexcused absences from examinations will result in a score of zero for that exam.

I **STRONGLY** encourage you not to miss an exam. The make up may be different from the exam given to the rest of the class. It may include an essay format, but the exam format is at my discretion.

One more thing: If a true emergency occurs that you know you can document, take care of yourself first and we will sort it out later. You do not need to call me from the ER or jail to let us know you won't be there. In those situations, you have bigger problems than this class at that moment in time.

Class Calendar

The readings for this day are the readings I expect you to have done PRIOR to that day. This calendar is based on my best estimation of how long it will take to go through the material. On occasion through the semester, I *may* get behind a day depending on how long it takes to cover the topic. Tests will ALWAYS only cover the chapters noted in the syllabus.

I assigned this book (partially) because the questions posed by each chapter are pretty good. They break down the material well. I could have assigned about 5-6 books and a reader for this course but chose not to do so. The weeks will be organized around the headings (Part II, III, etc) and the lectures will address these questions. DO NOT think every lecture will just be about the readings in that chapter. They will likely go beyond the readings for the week. Some of these readings are important in social movement literature, and others are more background.

This book was assigned because it organized a difficult subject into sections that students can grasp without having to read hundreds of pages.

All readings in the book will be fair game for the tests, but use the lectures as a launching pad for studying. I really like history... most of my classes following an American Political Development format (that's politics and history). I think I am likely going to use the sections to also introduce information in detail about specific movements and actors.

January 20 Wednesday	Introduction to the Course – Pass out Syllabi
January 22 Friday	Part I Introduction
January 25 Monday	Part I Introduction Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur?
January 27 Wednesday	Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur?
January 29 Friday	Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur?
February 1 Monday	Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur?

February 3 Wednesday	Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur?
February 5 Friday	Part II When and Why Do Social Movements Occur? Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements?
February 8 Monday	Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements?
February 10 Wednesday	Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements?
February 12 Friday	Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements?
February 15 Monday	Part III Who Joins or Supports Movements?
February 17 Wednesday	Part III/ Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why?
February 19 Friday	Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why?
February 22 Monday	Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why? Paper One DUE by 11:59pm
February 24 Wednesday	Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why?
February 26 Friday	Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why?
March 1 Monday	Part IV Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out and Why? Paper 2 Topic Submission Deadline by 11:59pm
March 3 Wednesday	Part V How are Movements Organized?
March 5 Friday	TEST (Parts I, II, III, IV) released at 1:30pm Part V How are Movements Organized?
March 8 Monday	Part V How are Movements Organized? TEST (Parts I, II, III, IV) due by 11:59 pm
March 10 Wednesday	Part V How are Movements Organized?
March 12 Friday	Part V How are Movements Organized?
March 15 Monday	Spring Break
March 17 Wednesday	Spring Break
March 19 Friday	Spring Break

March 22 Monday	Part VI What do Movements Do?
March 24 Wednesday	Part VI What do Movements Do?
March 26 Friday	Part VI What do Movements Do?
March 29 Monday	Part VI What Do Movements Do?
March 31 Wednesday	Part VI What Do Movements Do?
April 2 Friday	Part VI What Do Movements Do?
April 5 Monday	Part VII How do Movements Interact with Other Players?
April 7 Wednesday	Part VII How do Movements Interact with Other Players?
April 9 Friday	Part VII How do Movements Interact with Other Players?
April 12 Monday	Part VII How do Movements Interact with Other Players?
April 14 Wednesday	Part VII How do Movements Interact with Other Players?
April 16 Friday	Part VIII Why Do Movements Decline?
April 19 Monday	Part VIII Why Do Movements Decline? Paper 2 DUE by 11:59pm
April 21 Wednesday	Part VIII Why Do Movements Decline?
April 23 Friday	Part VIII Why Do Movements Decline?
April 26 Monday	Part VIII Why Do Movements Decline? Part IX What Changes Do Movements Bring About?
April 28 Wednesday	Part IX What Changes Do Movements Bring About?
April 30 Friday	Part IX What Changes Do Movements Bring About?
May 3 Monday	Part IX What Changes Do Movements Bring About?
May 5 Wednesday	TEST (Part V,VI,VII,VIII,IX) released at 1:30pm
May 7 Friday	TEST (Part V,VI,VII,VIII,IX) due 11:59pm