

SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
FALL 2006, QUEENS COLLEGE
SOCIOLOGY 238, CT3RA
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15-1:30, PH 118

Instructor: Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur

Office: [PH 252R](#), office hours by appointment only (usually available right after class)

Course Description: _____

Imagine being sent back in time a hundred years. How different would social life be? How would you fit in to your transformed surroundings? And why would this historical period look so different from the world to which you are accustomed? This course will begin by exploring the dynamics of social change in the modern world, particularly those types which might account for some of the differences between social life today and social life a century ago. For the second two-thirds of the course, we will focus on the dynamics of collective action in order to develop an understanding of how people come together in an attempt to create change in their social environments. We will examine how movement organizations form, what strategies they employ, and what the results of collective action can be. Students will have the opportunity to choose a particular social movement upon which to focus their studies.

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Have an understanding of why and how social change occurs,
- Be able to apply theoretical models of social change and social movements to particular empirical examples from the real world,
- Learn about the history and dynamics of a number of specific social movements,
- Gain experience in working collectively, and
- Further develop their sociological writing and research skills.

Required Materials:

Goodwin, Jeff, and James Jasper. 2003. *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts*. Blackwell Publishing. (Approximately \$35 bought new). Readings from this text are referred to as “Jaswin” on the syllabus.

Ritzer, George. 2004. *The McDonaldization of Society* **4th edition**. Pine Science Press. (Approximately \$37 bought new—please make every effort to purchase the 4th edition, as it does differ from earlier editions). Readings from this text are referred to as “Ritzer” on the syllabus.

A photocopied reading packet is also required, available at QC Copy Center, located right across the street from the main gate and under the pizzeria. Readings from the course packet are referred to as “RP” on the syllabus.

All readings are available on reserve at the library—some electronically and some in paper format. To access information about course reserves, go to <http://queens.docutek.com>. The password for the course is “art238.”

Grading:

1. PARTICIPATION (10% of your course grade). In order to do well in this course, you must regularly attend class and come prepared by having done the required course readings. Regular participation in class is required and will count towards your final grade. What counts is not that you are always right or that you speak every day but that you engage with the materials and other students' thoughts with serious intellectual effort and with respect for each other's feelings, backgrounds, opinions, and ideas. In addition, you are expected to participate fully in any group discussions and activities. If you have serious difficulty speaking in class, please meet with me early in the semester to develop an alternative plan for fulfilling this requirement, such as frequent email communications.
2. SOCIAL CHANGE EXAM (15% of your course grade). At the conclusion of the social change section of the course, there will be an open-book in-class essay exam.
3. FINAL PROJECT (25%). A final research project on a social movement of your choice will be the main focus of the course. This project will include an individual or group paper (4/5 of the grade) and an in-class group presentation at the end of the semester (1/5 of the grade).
4. IN-CLASS QUIZZES/SMALL OUT-OF-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (30% of your course grade). Over the course of the semester, there will be approximately six in-class open-book quizzes on the reading material as well as approximately six one-page writing assignments. Some of these quizzes and assignments may be completed in small groups. The quizzes will be unannounced; the writing assignments will be written as part of the process of completing the final project and will be announced well in advance.
5. FINAL EXAM (20% of grade). An in-class open-book final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled exam period. The exam will consist of essay and/or short answer questions.
6. READING. Normal expectations for a college course are that you should do about two hours of work outside class for every one hour in class. As you are spending two and a half hours a week in class, that means you can expect to spend up to five hours a week in reading, research, and writing assignments. Be sure to always complete the required reading.

Course Schedule:

Note: Reading and writing assignments are to be completed *prior* to the class meeting under which they are listed

Thursday, August 31	Introduction to Class
Tuesday, September 5 <i>Read:</i> Ritzer Ch. 1 & 2	McDonaldization & Bureaucratization
Thursday, September 7 <i>Read:</i> Ritzer Ch. 3 & 4	Rationalization
Tuesday, September 12 <i>Read:</i> Ritzer Ch. 5 & 6	Industrialization
Thursday, September 14 <i>Read:</i> Ritzer Ch. 8	Globalization

- Tuesday, September 19 **Demographic and Environmental Change**
Read: Weinstein, "Population Growth and Demographic Transition," 55-81 (RP)
 Goudie, "Conclusion: The Human Impact on the Natural Environment," 419-433 (RP)
- Thursday, September 21 **Urbanization and the Environment**
Read: Worth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," 91-97 (RP)
 McMichael, "Planetary Overload," 437-449 (RP)
- Tuesday, September 26 **Responding to Social Change**
Read: Ritzer 9 & 10
- Thursday, September 28 **Social Change Exam**
- Tuesday, October 3 **No Class**
- Thursday, October 5 **Collective Behavior and Revolution**
Read: Visano, "Financial Manias and Panics," 801-827(RP)
 Goodwin, "Introduction: No Other Way Out," 3-34 (RP)
- Tuesday, October 10 **Social Change and Social Movements**
Read: Jaswin 1- 14;
 Della Porta and Diani, "Social Change and Social Movements," 33-63 (RP)
- Thursday, October 12 **Movement Ideologies**
Read: Jaswin 64-80, 134-146
- Tuesday, October 17 **Building and Maintaining Membership**
Read: Jaswin 49-63; 89-93; 116-128
- Thursday, October 19 **Emotions & Identity**
Read: Jaswin 153-162, 229-233
- Tuesday, October 24 **Theoretical Perspectives on Movements**
Read: Classical: Smelser, "Social and Psychological Dimensions of Collective Behavior," 92-121 (RP)
 Resource Mobilization: Jaswin 169-186
 Political: Goodwin and Jasper, "Caught in a Winding, Snarling Vine," 27-53 (RP)
 New Social Movements: Melucci, "A Strange Kind of Newness," 101-130 (RP)
- Thursday, October 26 **Movement Organizations**
Read: Jaswin 187-218
- Tuesday, October 31 **Strategy and Tactics**
Read: Jaswin 219-233; 249-254; 283-300

Thursday, November 2	Media and Discourse
<i>Read:</i> Jaswin 301-312; Benford and Snow, "Framing Processes and Social Movements," 611-639	
Tuesday, November 7	Responding to Movements
<i>Read:</i> Jaswin 315-317; 345-352	
Thursday, November 9	Movement Impacts
<i>Read:</i> Jaswin 353-369	
Tuesday, November 14	Studying Movements: Methodologies
<i>Read:</i> Mahoney, "Strategies of Causal Assessment in Comparative-Historical Analysis," 337-371 (RP)	
Thursday, November 16	The Music of Protest
<i>Read:</i> Rosenstone, "The Times They Are A-Changin': The Music of Protest," 131-144 (RP) Review Jaswin 367-369	
Tuesday, November 21	Guest Lecture: The Labor Movement
<i>Read:</i> Jaswin 318-328; 373-374 (Date tentative)	
Thursday, November 23	No Class: Thanksgiving
Tuesday, November 28	Make-Up Day
Thursday, November 30	Group Presentations
Tuesday, December 5	Group Presentations
Thursday, December 7	Special Topics in Social Movements
Tuesday, December 12	Course Review and Conclusion
Final papers due	
Thursday, December 21	In-Class Final Exam: 11:00 AM

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance

As noted above, you are expected to attend class regularly. I certainly understand that at times, students do have legitimate reasons for missing class (such as family emergencies, illness, or religious observance). If you know you will be absent, you must notify me in advance. If an emergency comes up, please notify me as soon as possible about how long you expect to be out. Excused absences will not be penalized if I know about them at the earliest available opportunity. In addition, I expect that you will come to class on time and prepared to learn and return from all class breaks promptly. Lateness is distracting to your fellow students.

In addition, all assignments are due in class on the assigned due date. If you can not attend class on a day when an assignment is due, please make your best effort to turn it in ahead of time. If this is impossible, I will accept e-mailed assignments *if they have been sent before 12:00 pm on the assigned due date*. Please attach the assignment as an .rtf, .pdf, .html, or .doc file. Remember to always submit a copy of your essays through the Turnitin.com website. If you do not receive an e-mail confirming that I have received and successfully opened the file, then you must resend it. Technical problems will not be an acceptable excuse for lateness.

Academic Integrity

As in all college courses, I expect all students to adhere to a strict standard of academic integrity. Any student who cheats or commits plagiarism will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment. Repeated offenses will result in a grade of F for the course. Be aware that I have caught and penalized many students in the past.

I require students to provide evidence that they have thought seriously about this statement of academic integrity. Therefore, I require you to submit all course writing assignments to the Turnitin.com plagiarism detection website. If you do not have Internet access, I encourage you to get it promptly, as discussed under “Information Technology” below. However, if this is impossible for you, speak to me promptly and I will give you an alternative assignment which does not require the Internet. The enrollment password for Turnitin.com is “strategy” and the class ID is “1546499.” If you provide me with an e-mail address, I will register you for Turnitin.com. For help, see http://www.turnitin.com/static/training_support/tii_student_qs.pdf.

Offenses against academic integrity include:

- ↳ Submitting work that does not use proper attribution of all sources, whether print, internet, or simply a conversation with a classmate or friend. Proper attribution includes a correctly formatted citation and bibliographic entry every time you use an idea that did not come entirely from your own head, whether you quote directly, paraphrase, or merely draw on a text. All standard citation formats are acceptable in this course (such as MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.) though you need to be internally consistent. For those who are not familiar with a particular citation format, here are two links for the citation format used by the American Sociological Association: http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/sociology/resources/writing_citation.html and <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html>.
- ↳ Copying work from other students or writing papers as a joint effort, unless specifically directed to do so. This does not prohibit you from discussing assignments with your peers, but the product of your work must be your own. In addition, you may not submit papers written for other courses without my prior approval.
- ↳ Purchasing your papers from a web source, hiring someone to write your papers for you, submitting papers written by other individuals, or downloading or copying all or part of your paper from a website. Be aware that it is easier to detect this sort of dishonesty than you might think and many students have been caught.

Information Technology

You are expected to have access to e-mail for the duration of this course. If you do not have access to e-mail, <http://mail.yahoo.com> is a good source for free e-mail accounts. I would suggest you check your e-mail often (at least twice a week), as I will send important information about the course via e-mail. If you have any changes in your e-mail address during the course, please notify me

immediately. If you do not have access to a computer at home, Queens College does provide computer labs and you can check your e-mail there.

There is also a website associated with this course. This website provides an updated copy of the syllabus, essay questions, discussion questions, and useful links. It is available at <http://homepages.nyu.edu/~mma235/classes.html>.

Support services

If at any time during the semester you are having difficulty with the work, or even if you just have a question, please let me know right away. Other resources you might want to turn to include:

- ↪ The Queens College “Sociology Write” website, which offers tips for writing and research in sociology as well as a link to the Queens College writing center. Remember that even good writers can benefit from additional practice and from help with editing and focusing their writing assignments. <http://www.soc.qc.edu/robin/writesoc/index.html>
- ↪ If you have personal or academic concerns that are keeping you from doing your best, you may wish to consider taking advantage of the services of the Peer Advisement Center. <http://qcpages.qc.edu/peeradvisement/home.html>
- ↪ The library offers online tutorials (<http://qcpages.qc.edu/Library/olstutorial/index.html>) as well as informational tours (<http://qcpages.qc.edu/Library/info/instructional.html>) to help you get acquainted with library services and with doing research.
- ↪ The subject material we cover in this class can be very emotional and disturbing. I encourage you to come speak to me if you are having emotional difficulties with the material. If you would like to speak with a professional, please seek the services of the QC Counseling Center. Information is available at <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Stuserv/counsel.htm>

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a disability for which you will need accommodations during this course, such as extra time on assignments or exams, please let me know as soon as possible during the semester so that all appropriate arrangements can be made.

Students New to the English Language:

I understand that the students in my class come from diverse linguistic backgrounds, and while this is not an English or writing class, I do require that papers and exams be grammatically correct and show attention to writing style and format. If you believe that this may be difficult for you, please come speak to me early in the semester so that we can work out appropriate arrangements. Written communication is important in sociology, but I do not want this to be a stumbling block for anyone to do well.

Some strategies for improving your writing including taking advantages of the services listed above, scheduling meetings to talk with me about your writing, exchanging drafts with peers for proofreading, and reading your papers aloud to yourself as part of the editing process. Remember that even the best writers need practice with editing, and don't be over-critical of yourself.

Extra Credit

There will be one opportunity to earn extra credit in this course. This extra credit assignment will be worth up to three points on your final grade and will require you to answer an extra essay question at the time of the final exam for the course. In order to earn this extra credit, you must read the

book *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay, available online in its entirety at <http://www.econlib.org/library/mackay/macEx.html> for free.