

Grande Prairie Regional College

SO2700: Social Movements

January, 2007 ~ April, 2007

Instructor: Murray Shaw

Office: C410

Classroom: A308

Phone: 539-2011

Class times: Tuesdays, 6:00pm – 8:50pm

Email: mshaw@gprc.ab.ca

Office hours: Make an appointment, or drop by the office.

Course Prerequisite: Introductory social science

Course Objectives

Social movements can be broadly defined as groups in civil society organizing to bring about social change. Many social commentators have observed that social movements are distinctly modern phenomenon, made possible by social, economic, and political changes occurring in the modern era. In the first part of the course, we will undertake a brief survey of the historical roots of the rise of social movements in the western world, and then undertake an examination of classical and contemporary social movement theory. Following this, drawing on social movement theories, we will examine some social movements that have had an impact in North America and other parts of the world since the 1960s.

During this course, students will gain an understanding of

- the social, economic and political changes that provided the conditions for the rise of social movements;
- the centrality of social movements to the constitution of modern western societies;
- classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives on how social movements form, and the conditions under which they grow and gain influence;
- how social movements interact with governments, corporations, and other social institutions;
- a range of social issues and movements.

Course Materials

- Goodwin, Jeff, & Jasper, James. (Eds.). (2003). The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts.
- Additional readings will be on reserve in the library for you to photocopy.
- I will also provide a class website with lecture notes, study guides, and other information and links of interest.

Course Requirements

30 %	Exam 1 February 13	Exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.
30 %	Exam 2 April exam period	I will post study guides to help students prepare for the short essay questions.
20 %	Research paper April 10	8-12 pages [details TBA]
10 %	2 Article analyses March 6, April 3	I will post guidelines on blackboard.
10 %	Participation in class discussions	Part of each class will be in a 'seminar' format, in which the readings for the week are discussed. For this reason, it is important that the readings for each week are done before class. Each week, two students will be responsible for providing questions to guide the class discussion.

Course outline

The following is a list of some of the topics that will be covered in this course

- Collective behaviour and social movements
- Social movements theory
- Social movements and the state
- Social movements and democracy
- Workers' movements
- Women's movements
- Civil rights movements
- Poor people's movements
- Environmental movements
- Grass roots, community activism

- Fascism and right-wing movements; reactionary movements
- Transnational movements

Grading system

Grades will be assigned on the *Letter Grading System*.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4	90 – 100	Excellent
A	4	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	<u>First Class Standing</u>
B ⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3	73 – 75	Good
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	Satisfactory
C	2	64 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 63	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	Minimal Pass
D	1	50 – 54	
F	0	0 – 49	Fail

Academic behavior

It is expected that all students will respect the rights of all other members of the class. This means:

- No disruptive behavior such as private discussions during lecture/discussion sessions that distract other students or prevent them from hearing the main discussion going on.
- When participating in a discussion, stating your ideas and opinions in class in a way that does not offend others.

Policy on academic dishonesty: You will not present the work of others as your own. Any incident of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will lead to a failing grade. The instructor reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services.

