

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

SO2700 UT (3-0-0)

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL ACTION

Interdisciplinary

Instructors: Scott McAlpine, Susan Otto, Gail Zuk

SYLLABUS STATEMENT

This course will introduce the role of social movements in social change, and the various roles and skills needed by individuals in a social change effort.

PREREQUISITES

Students will require one of the following: SO1000, SO1010, SW2010, PO1010, PO1020.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students from the identified disciplines with the historical and contemporary place of citizens in social change efforts. Social change is evolving, and the role of ideology, structure, organization and values is requisite knowledge. Current social movement activities in a northern and rural context will be highlighted, and students will engage in a social change effort through participatory and experiential learning opportunities.

The course, in three allied sections, will offer the theory (modernity/post-modernity, hegemony, new social movements, critical social theory), the structure (colonization, oppression, state policy environments, the welfare state, social policy) and the practice (organizing, acting personal growth and reflection, skill development) of social action.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. Be able to articulate the theories and practices of social organization and social movements;
2. Understand the role of social policy, colonization, capitalism, and political systems on creating and maintaining oppression;
3. Know and apply the knowledge and skills of social action;
4. Identify the internal changes in moving towards anti-oppressive practices; and
5. Understand social issues in a northern context, and articulate the contextual dynamics of social action.

TEXTS

Bishop, A. (2002). Becoming an ally: Breaking the cycle of oppression in people (revised edition). Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

In addition, a required reading package will be available at cost.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mid Term Exam	(Theory and structure)	30%
Final Exam	(Theory, structure and practice)	30%
Group Project	(in-class presentation)	10%
	(paper)	20%
Reflection	(journal exercise)	<u>10%</u>
		100%

EXAM

Mid Term Exam

Final Exam

Group Project: Critical Examination of Need and Response

In small groups, students will collectively select a local group or organization involved in social action or delivery of an alternative social service. The students will present the following, through an in-class presentation and submission of a paper.

- Brief description of the issue, highlighting the nature of marginalization or oppression experienced;
- A description of existing programs or activities addressing the issue, with a critical evaluation of the underlying (whether explicit or not) ideology;
- A review of the organization or program (if one exists) in terms of its structure and practices
- Presentation of some alternative ideology, service or activity, or organization that embraces the concepts of empowerment, collective identity, framing,...

Reflection: Journal Exercise

Students will keep a journal for the duration of the course. This writing will be used by the student to critically reflect on the information and insights gained from the readings, lectures, group activities and discussion.

CLASS SCHEDULE

TBA