

San Jose State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science Department
SOCI 164-01: Social Action

Semester: Fall 2024

Instructor: Sneha Dutta Hazarika

Email: sneha.duttahazarika@sjsu.edu

Units:3

Classroom: DMH, Rm. 231

Class Time: TR 4.30 – 5:45pm

Office Location: DMH 237A

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm
and by appointment (zoom)

Course Description:

This course will examine “the tactics and strategies of social action”. Specifically, it will introduce students to the sociological study of social movements within the United States as well as transnational protest and global activism. We will explore a variety of social movements in the United States like the Civil Rights Movement, The Free Speech Movement, Women’s Movements, the Gay Liberation Movement, the Occupy Movement, Black Lives Matter, and Standing Rock as well as The Egyptian Revolution and the Zapatista Movement in the global arena.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will

- Learn and understand major theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of social movements
- Learn about important historical and contemporary social movements both within and outside of the United States.
- Understand the emergence of social movements, who participates, and what social forces shape the organization and development of social movements.
- Critically apply the sociological theories and concepts to analyze social movements.

- Develop writing and speaking as well as discussion skills.

Required Texts and Materials:

The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper

Supplementary Texts and Materials:

*** Additional Readings will be made available on Canvas.

Composition of Grade:

Final grading is based on the following:

6 Online Writing Assignments	60 points
2 Online Exams	100 points
2 Film/Video Commentaries	10 points
3 Online Quizzes	45 points
6 Group Discussions	60 points
4 Minute Papers	20 points
Group Project	25 points
Group Project Initial Statement	10 points
Group Presentation	20 points
Total	350 points

Grading Summary:

The following is the grading summary.

94-100%=A	73-76% = C
90-93% = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86% = B	64-66% = D
80-82% = B-	60%-63% = D-
77-79% = C+	Below 59% = F

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation:

It is very important that each student attend class regularly. The course will meet in person every Tuesday and Thursday from 4.30 pm to 5:45pm. Please complete the necessary coursework for each given week, attend in – person class meetings, reading the assigned materials, reviewing PowerPoints, complete the online writing assignments, the online

quizzes and the reflection paper in addition to participating in class and group discussions. Additionally, please refer to emails and Canvas communications for updates on the course. I do not take attendance but if you are absent on a day when there is an in-class activity or discussion, you will not be allowed to make up for it unless you provide documentation for your absence. *However, I reserve the right to determine whether or not your circumstances are excusable.*

Film/Video Commentaries:

Students will be able to view/watch two (2) documentaries/films as a part of the course content. Additionally, each student is required to write a short commentary on two (2) of the documentaries/films/videos. Each commentary is worth 5 points. Details will be posted on Canvas under Film commentaries. The commentaries are required to be submitted on Padlet. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Group Discussions:

To develop a community of energetic and committed learners, you are asked to engage in group discussions during class meetings. Students are REQUIRED to develop and participate in discussions in a timely and appropriate manner following the course schedule. The discussions would indicate and reflect your learning from the course materials, your ability to apply these concepts and to reason clearly from the premises. The purpose of the discussions is to promote the development of an analytic approach toward the study of sociology. Our task in these discussions is to use scholarly ideas to understand social realities and behaviors. Only factual and scholarly tools, and academic analyses are acceptable. Please exert extraordinary care and caution in addressing issues with others because of the sensitivity of the material. Please do not criticize the values, beliefs or practices of others. Please be very careful to not offend, diminish or degrade others or their contributions in any manner. During the semester, students are required to participate and complete six (6) group discussions. Each discussion is worth 10 points. Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.

Online Writing Assignments:

Students are required to complete six (6) writing assignments/activities throughout the semester. Each assignment is 10 points. I give very specific topic for the writing assignments pertaining to the weekly readings. There is no specific format for these in-class writing assignments, but emphasis will be given on the content such as applying critical thinking and analytical reasoning to address complex challenges and problems related to the subject matter. Please read the required materials for the week and be prepared to complete the writing assignments online using Journal available on Canvas. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Minute Papers:

Students are required to complete four (4) minute papers at the end of the lecture review during in-person class meetings. The purpose of the minute paper is to help students discover

their own meaning in relation to concepts covered in class lecture reviews. The time to complete the minute papers is two minutes. Each minute paper is 5 points. Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.

Online Quizzes:

Students are required to complete three (3) quizzes based on the reading materials. The quizzes will contain multiple choice questions, true/false, short descriptive questions. Please refer to the course schedule for the dates. There will be no makeups for the quizzes. Each quiz must be completed by the end of the scheduled week. Each quiz is worth 15 points.

Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.

Online Exams:

Students are required to complete two (2) exams throughout the semester. These exams will be worth 50 points each. The exams are in the form of multiple choice, true/false and short essay questions. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Missed Exams – Exams are scheduled well in advance so discretionary activity should be scheduled around these dates. Missed exams will be counted as a zero (0) except for extraordinary circumstances.

Group Project and Presentation:

At the beginning of the semester, I will assign you to groups of 2 students based on a social movement of your interest. The social movement you select will become your case study to examine extensively over the course of the semester. Over the semester, you and your group will complete certain components culminating in the final presentation. **Detailed instructions will be provided during the month of September 2024. Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Class Policies

Conduct and Etiquette:

Be respectful of your classmates and instructor. In any classroom, there is a diffusion of responsibility. In any discussion, attacks of a personal nature or use of slurs will not be tolerated. Disagreement and debates are welcome if conducted in a civil manner. While disagreeing with your fellow classmates during discussion forum boards, I encourage you to use the phrase “I disagree with you rather than I think you are wrong”.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](#) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Academic Integrity Policy

According to the University's Academic Integrity Policy, cheating is "the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means, while plagiarism is "the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. The university's Academic Integrity Policy is available at:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/SJSU-Academic-Integrity-Policy-F15-7.pdf> . If I determine there has been a violation of this policy, students will receive an automatic F for the paper. In addition, I may file a report with the Academic Affairs Judicial Officer regarding the violation of the academic integrity policy.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[Presidential Directive 97-03 \[pdf\]](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. AEC will contact the instructor with further details, if needed.

If special arrangements are needed in cases of emergency or if the building must be evacuated, please make arrangements with the instructor.

Timely Feedback on Class Assignments

Per [Timely Feedback on Assignments Policy S20-2 \[pdf\]](#), all students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. The instructor would normally take 7 to 10 days to provide feedback and grades.

Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Writing Center

The SJSU [Writing Center](#) offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. The center offers writing resources, workshops, and one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions. Services support writing for students in all disciplines and at all levels. Workshops and tutoring are also available online. Visit their website to make an appointment, or to use the many online resources available. You can also visit them on the 2nd floor of the MLK Library.

Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2024

The course schedule is a tentative and general plan for the course
Adjustments may have to be made and will be announced in class

08/22/2024 Syllabus and Introduction

08/27/2025 **Introduction to Social Movements**

***Dana Moss and David Snow 2016: "Theorizing Social Movements"

Goodwin, Jeff and James M. Jasper. 2009. *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts*. 2nd edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. Chapter 1, "Editors' Introduction," pp. 3-7.

Theories of Social Movements

08/29/2024 **Resource Mobilization Theory**

John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald. 2015. "Ch.16: Social Movement Organizations," in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 159-173.

2015. "Ch. 5: The Egyptian Revolution," in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 45-52

Minute Paper#1

09/03/2024 **Political Opportunity Theory**

J. Craig Jenkins and Charles Perrow. 2015. "Ch.26: Farmworkers' Movements in Changing Political Contexts," in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 287-300

Jo Freeman. 2015. "Ch. 2: The Women's Movement," in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp.13-23

Group Discussion#1

09/05/2024 **Framing in Social Movements**

***David Snow: "Ch.17: Framing Processes, Ideology and Discursive Fields." in *Blackwell Companion* edited by Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, pp.380- 405

*** Charlotte Ryan and William A. Gamson. 2006. "The Art of Reframing Political Debates." *Contexts*, 5(1): 13-18

Online Writing Assignment#1 due by Saturday 09/07/2024 on Canvas

09/10/2024 **Who Joins or Supports Movements?**

Doug McAdam. 2015. "Ch.7: Recruits to Civil Rights Activism," in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts* edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 65-75

Quiz#1

09/12/2024 **Who Joins or Supports Movements? Cont...**

2015. "Ch. 9 Women's Mobilization into the Salvadorian Guerilla Army," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp.83-97

Group Discussion#2

09/17/2024 **Who Remains in Movements, Who Drops Out, and Why?**

2015. "Ch. 10: Generating Commitment Among Students," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp.105-112

Online Writing Assignment#2

09/19/2024 **Review for Exam#1**

09/24/2024 **What do Movements Do? Tactical Repertoires, Strategies, and Tactics**

Gay Seidman. 2014. "Ch. 21: Armed Struggle in the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 224-235.

Group Discussion #3

09/26/2024 Exam#1

10/01/2024 Film in class

If a Tree Falls...: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front (1hr 25mins)

Submit initial statement of the group project by Thursday 1st October 2024, 11.59 pm on Canvas.

10/03/2024 Deborah B. Gould. 2015. "Ch.24: The Emotion Work of Movements," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp.254-264

Online Writing Assignment#3

10/08/2025 **What do Movements Do? Cultural Performance**

Verta Taylor, Katrina Kimport, Nella Van Dyke, and Ellen Ann Andersen. 2015. "Ch. 25: Tactical Repertoires: Same-Sex Weddings," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp 266-281

Group Discussion#4

- 10/10/2024 **Repression**
- ***Donatella Della Porta and Olivier Fillieule. 2004. "Ch.10: Policing Social Protest." Ch.10 in Blackwell Companion edited by Snow, Soule, and Kriesi, read only pp. 217-222; 231-236
- Minute Paper#2**
- 10/15/2024 **Movement Outcomes**
- Goodwin, Jeff and James M. Jasper. 2015. The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts. 3rd edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. "Editors' Introduction," pp. 379-382
- David S. Meyer. 2015. "Ch.36: How Social Movements Matter," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 386-390
- Quiz#2**
- 10/17/2024 Jennifer Earl, "The Cultural Consequences of Social Movements," chap. 22 in The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements, ed. David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004), pp. 508–530
- Online Writing Assignment#4**
- 10/22/2024 Watch a Film
- United in Anger: A History of Act Up (1hr 33mins)
- 10/24/2024 **Review for Exam#2**
- 10/29/2024 **Social Movements: Case Studies**
- ***Freeman, Jo. "From Freedom Now! To Free Speech: The FSM's Roots in the Bay Area Civil Rights Movement" in The Free Speech Movement: Reflections on Berkeley in the 1960s," edited by Robert Cohen and Reginald E. Zelnick. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. (Pp.73-82)
- Minute Paper#3**
- 10/31/2024 Exam#2**
- 11/05/2024 **Social Movements: Case Studies Cont....**
- McAdam, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency. Excerpts of Chapter 7 (Pp.146-147; 149-152; 156-161; 162-163; 166; 169-180)
- Group Discussion#5**
- 11/07/2024 John D'Emilio. 2015. "Ch. 3 The Gay Liberation Movement," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 24-29

Online Writing Assignment#5

11/12/2024 **Social movements and the Media**

***The Zapatista Movement

Minute Paper#4

11/14/2024 **New Social Movements**

Ruth Milkman, Stephanie Luce and Penny Lewis. 2105. "Ch. 4 Occupy Wall Street," in The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts edited by Goodwin and Jasper, pp. 30-44

Group Discussion#6

11/19/2024 ***Black Lives Matter

Minute Paper#5

11/21/2024 **Indigenous Resistance**

***Standing Rock

Online Writing Assignment#6

11/26/2024 **Quiz#3**

11/28/2024 **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

12/03/2024 **Presentations of Final Projects**

12/05/2024 **Presentations of Final Projects**

12/09/2024 **Final Project Report**