The Hunger Games: Collective Action and Social Movements

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Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the sociological study of collective behavior and social movements. This is an important area of sociological inquiry because social movements shape politics, values, and American culture. This course is organized to highlight themes in the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins. We will begin with an introduction to collective behavior and, then, discuss power. Here, we will examine how the state can exercise power over its citizens and how citizens can choose to challenge state authority. Then, we will turn our attention to revolutions and social movements. After we discuss the difference between the two, we will examine why movements occur, who joins social movements, the strategies and tactics activists employ to achieve their goals, leadership and celebrity in social movements, and the role of mass media in movements. Throughout the semester we will be discussing a range of social movements and revolutions including, the Iranian Revolution, the pro-choice movement, the pro-life movement, the academic freedom movement, the white power movement, and many others. A general goal of the course is to introduce you to a range of theoretical perspectives, ideas, and social movements.

Specific Course Objectives:
1. To understand how sociologists think about social movements and evaluate their influence on American society.
2. To understand the theories and concepts related to the study of collective behavior and social movements.
3. Use The Hunger Games series to analyze and to think critically about collective behavior and social movements as well as their influence on society and our lives.
4. Complete a research project (and presentation) on a movement of interest.

More generally, Students will learn:
1. To critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and/or the present.
2. To gather and analyze data using social science and/or historical methodologies to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions, assumptions, and explanatory evidence.
3. To evaluate and employ appropriate methods and technology in the collection and analysis of data.
4. To analyze and synthesize information from within and across disciplines to: examine existing questions and problems from a variety of perspectives, formulate novel questions and ideas, and explain these questions and ideas in written and oral formats.
5. To think creatively and flexibly by envisaging new approaches to real-world scenarios or questions.
6. To learn, think, and solve problems independently and in teams, as is required to engage in the life-long consideration of, and the fostering of cooperative solutions to, complex problems.

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies offers a transformative experience; this course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of the theories of the social sciences and the facts that support them.

To demonstrate college-level writing competency as required by the State of Florida, the student must earn a "C" (2.0) or higher in the course, and earn at least a “C” average on the required writing assignments. If the student does not earn a “C” average or better on the required writing assignments, the student will not earn an overall grade of “C” or better in the course, no matter how well the student performs in the remaining portion of the course.

Required Texts:


The rest of the required readings for the course are posted on the course website. They are saved as pdf, which requires the free Adobe reader to access.

Course Policies and Requirements:

**Assigned Readings.** All readings should be done **prior** to the listed date. These readings are required and will serve as the basis for class discussion.

**Course Preparation and Participation (100 points).** Florida State University policy requires attendance to all classes. Showing up to class, however, is not enough. You need to be prepared to participate in the course activities each week. You will earn/lose points weekly based on your preparation and participation. This includes assignments that are due in class such as paper drafts and outlines. Be advised, if you are on your computer doing work for other classes during class time, you will lose all of the preparation and participation points for the day. If you are in my class, I expect you to be paying attention and engaged. I would encourage you to take hand written notes. All the research shows that writing – not typing – information leads to better recall and learning.

**Social Movement Project (100 points).** You will conduct research on (and give a 5-7 minute classroom presentation on) a movement of your choice. This should be a visual presentation (e.g., use PowerPoint, Prezi, or create a video) and you will need to hand in your list of 7 sources. This may include reputable Internet sources that discuss the revolution/movement and an organization. You must include at least 3 scholarly sources. The presentation is worth 20 points (of the total 100). I expect you to have at least three scholarly sources. You can sign up for a time slot during Week 2. The paper will be due at the end of the semester.

Here are the components of the presentation:

- Provide an overview of the social movement.
  - What is the movement about?
What are the main parties involved in the conflict?

- Discuss one of the groups involved in the movement?
  - What is its goal?
  - How is it trying to achieve its goal?
- Has the movement been successful?
  - Talk about the movement more generally and tell us what it has accomplished (e.g., changes in public opinion, policy changes, got themselves in power).
- Why are you interested in this social movement/revolution? What questions do you have about it or what do you want to learn?

Course papers (50 points each - 150 points total).
There are three analytic papers in the course. Each of the papers use collective action themes that appear in the Hunger Games. Your job is to use course materials and lecture to analyze each of these themes in the book(s). Your paper should begin with a clear thesis statement, which you should support with 3 or 4 arguments. Here are the paper topics:

- Paper 1: Repression in *The Hunger Games*
- Paper 2: Disruption in *The Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire*
- Paper 3: Leadership in *The Hunger Games, Catching Fire*, and *Mocking Jay*

What is a Scholarly Source?

A scholarly peer-reviewed article is an academic research paper or book that has to be approved by other scholars/academics before being published. This is how the process works. Professors or other academic researchers work on writing a paper to publish their research. Most academic research is published in academic journals. These academic journals usually come out about 4 times a year with multiple research papers in them. This is the way that academics share their research with others.

However, the process of getting a research paper to be accepted and published in a journal is difficult and it is called a "peer-review" process. There is a committee that consists of other experts in the area of research that your paper is on, and this committee reviews your paper to make sure that there are no major mistakes with your paper. The committee can decide to accept your paper outright (this is rare), ask you to revise your paper and resubmit it, or reject your paper altogether.

The "peer-review" process is intended to make sure that your paper is not based on any flawed methods and is to ensure that your paper is a quality paper that is worth reading. This is why professors want their students to use these types of sources in their paper instead of just a blog or wikipedia which can be written by anyone perhaps even people who don't really know anything about the topic.

Databases such as Web of Science, JSTOR, Academic Search Complete and many others have online versions of academic journals which contain the research papers. When
using Web of Science it might be best for you to go to Advanced Search (tab at top) and then right below the search button there is a little box where you click the type of document that you want chose 'Article.' All of the articles that you find should then be peer-reviewed scholarly sources.

**Courtesy in the Classroom.** Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor), reading newspapers, sleeping, etc. during class. **Please turn off ALL electronic devices (Cell phones, ipods, and so on).** If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

During the semester we will discuss a range of topics as they relate to movements and they may stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. While I encourage diverse opinions, all discussions and papers need to be scholarly in their content. **Scholarly comments are:** Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion/thinking about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal “tones” and a non-aggressive manner. Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, temporary removal from the class room, to failing the course.

**Work Policy:** In order to grade and get scores back to you in a timely manner, all students must complete papers and other assignments by the time and date indicated on the syllabus. Make up work is only permitted in extraordinary circumstances and with the appropriate documentation in accordance with the university attendance policy which includes documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Otherwise, I do not accept late work in this class.

**Note:** Missing work is not sufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I). An incomplete will not be given except under extreme circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

**E-mail Policy:** Students must use a FSU e-mail address for course correspondence. E-mails should include the following information: 1) the course name, 2) who you are
addressing (“Hey” is not an appropriate greeting), 3) the question, and 4) your name. REMEMBER: E-mail is professional communication and becomes part of your student record.

**Academic Honor Code.** The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University."* (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy](http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).) Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor’s discretion, and may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy.

**Cheating and Plagiarism.** The Provost and legal counsel of Florida State University warn us that any uses of others' copyrighted materials without proper acknowledgement is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution. To this end, please be scrupulous in using the work of others by giving full and appropriate credit to the sources and materials that you use. Please use care when taking words and phrases from others. If you use a string of three or more exact words from another source, you must place the words in quotes and cite the author, year and page number. Be a stickler about citing; cite more rather than less; cite early rather than late. Do NOT appropriate the concepts, phrases, or ideas of other people without giving them credit. If you do so, you risk losing your good name and getting into legal trouble. Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or possibly an "F" for the course and may be reported to the University Judicial Office. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:**

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references.
- Submit a paper in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.
- You commit **patchwork plagiarism** by overusing quotations – 25% or more of your paper. This is the most common form of plagiarism. Make good use of turnitin.com, which shows you whether/how much of your work is from others.
Disabilities. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center;
and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what
type. This should be done during the first week of class. Please note that instructors are
not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate
verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus
and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more
information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Free Tutoring. On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses
at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for
Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see
http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available
by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to
encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal
academic integrity.

Syllabus Policy. This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with
advance notice. By taking this course, you agree to abide by the policies and practices
outlined within the syllabus.

Grading Scale for Course.
325-350 = A
315-324 = A-
304-314 = B+
294-303 = B
280-293 = B-
269-279 = C+
258-268 = C
247-257 = C-
236-246 = D+
224-235 = D
210-223 = D-
209 and below = F