Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences

Course Prefix and Number: AMST 375

Course Title: Social Movements

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course is designed to facilitate an understanding of social movements, from what conditions facilitate their development to how success is measured. The bulk of this course will focus on sociological analysis of a wide variety of social movements of 20th century American society and their significance for American society; the Progressive era reform movements, the labor movement, the women’s movement, the environmental movement, the gay rights movement, the civil rights and other racial/ethnic movements of the 1960s, as well as free speech and anti-war movements of the period. Cross-listed as SOCI 375. Prerequisite: SOCI 111. Offered odd Spring.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): SOCI 111.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Diner, Steven J. A Very Different Age: Americans of the


Ingram, Catherine. *In the Footsteps of Gandhi: Conversations with Spiritual Social Activists*. Parallax Press.


Sakolshy, Ron and Fred Wei-Han Ho. *Sounding Off: Music as Subversion/Resistance/Revolution*. Autonomedia.

Course Objectives:

- To understand social movements from a sociological perspective; understand the conditions that facilitate their emergence how “success” is measured.
- To understand significant social movements of the 20th century from a sociological perspective: Progressive Era movements, the Labor movement, the Women’s movement, racial/ethnic movements of the 1960s and 1970s such as the Civil Rights movement, the Red Power movement and the Chicano Rights movement, the Environmental movement, and the Gay Rights movement.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Differentiate between social movements and collective behavior.
- Analyze competing theories of social movements.
- Assess social movement success.
- Understand significant social movements of 20th century American society.
- Evaluate the impact of such movements on American society.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Distinguish between social movements and collective behavior.
- Analyze sociological theories of social movements
  - Relative deprivation theory
  - Resource mobilization theory
  - Political process theory
  - Smelser’s necessary conditions for a social movement to emerge
  - RSMO’s – radical social movement organizations
- Assessing social movement success
- Analysis of American social movements
  - The Progressive era
  - The Labor movement
  - The Women’s movement
  - Racial/ethnic movements of the 60s/70s
    - The Civil Rights movement
    - The Red Power movement
    - The Chicano Rights movement
    - The Environmental movement
- Status of social movements today

Material from this course may be tested on the Major Field Test (MFT) administered during the Culminating Experience course for the degree.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 15

Library Resources

Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.
NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
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