

Social Movements-SOCI 155-20

**Georgetown University
Department of Sociology**

June 1 – July 2

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Class Location: (Car Barn 302)

Instructor: Arthur Piszczatowski (pronounced Pishchatovski)

Office Hours: Department of Sociology 3520 Prospect Street NW, Suite 209-04 (After Class or

Please make an appointment if necessary.)

The best way to reach me is through E-mail: ap1063@georgetown.edu *(When sending an e-mail please include in the subject area course number, your full name and the e-mail topic (for ex. SOC 155, Name, Presentation Question))*

Alternate E-mail: artisanminsk@gmail.com

Texts:

Required Texts

- *Susanne Staggenborg Social Movements and Assigned Readings*
- (Please budget approximately USD 100-130 for additional materials) (External research beyond the classroom may be required for your project as determined by the needs of the case which you develop.) (The cost should be applied for what you decide to do beyond the classroom in regards to technology or other choices which you may make.)

Course Description

Social Movements are a means by which human beings work against the macro-structures they inhabit. These movements can be long-term and peaceful if a society creates systems to institutionalize conflict and change or they can be abrupt and violent in societies where citizen participation and values are neglected. In this course we will consider social movement theories and sociological principles in understanding social movements. This class considers traditional cases in the United States (Women's Rights, Civil Rights, Environmental Movements, as well as cases in Eastern Europe (Solidarity Movement and others), including modern movements in the Ukraine and the Middle East from the perspective of non-profit organizations and youth participation.

Our global society has reached a turning point where social movements are no longer the preserve of formal institutions but internet based activity allows for better organization than ever before. Human beings have the capability to intersect major decisions of macro institutions and to organize within the network world. In this class we will explore not only the traditional cases but also the possibility to use network society to create our own active social reality while understanding the potential of alternative global systems of power and resources developed through the network of non-governmental organizations. As we use sociological analysis to decipher changes in culture and institutional organization we will also explore the new challenges to our societies as inequality and technology expands while traditional theories of social movements mutate to fit our modern empirical reality.

Course Goals

- To understand social movement theories

- To be able to criticize and develop these theories as warranted by technological and social changes in our environment
- To develop a strategic thought process to parallel social theory
- To engage in a project that becomes your social movement
- To examine social movements and the application of the network
- To learn from Historical and Modern Cases the Nuances and Structure of existing social movements
- Understand the Case of the Belarusian and Ukrainian Movements
- Understanding the Threat of Authoritarianism
- Awareness of the ability to Organize
- Understanding the Dilemma of a Super Class and Global Monetary Elite
- Understanding the Use of History in Social Movements
- Understanding the sources of Organization in Relation to a Global Power Network
- The Impact of the Network on Social Movements
- Developing the thought processes to create perspective for interpreting society

Guest Skype/Visitor Meetings

- **2-3 class sessions may involve guest speakers working with social issues relevant to the classroom projects and discussions**

Course Etiquette:

As we are a small class, the class will be conducted in a seminar format where you should be prepared to discuss your readings and to participate on a daily basis. Group work and mutual discussion are an important part of this course as it allows for developing our mutual phenomenological perception of our humanity and global reality. The course projects will be developed to blend theory, practice and independent research.

Course Projects, Homework, Quizzes and Examinations

Assignment	Percentage	Responsibility	Date
Class Participation: HW and Quizzes	15Percent	Students are Expected to be in class, share their knowledge, have read the assigned materials and to be prepared to answer or comment in class.	Daily
Examination	20 Percent	An Exam on Social Movement Theories and Relevant Material	June 11
Group Social Movement Presentation/ Paper Project	25 Percent	Group Project Presentation/ A Comparative International Case (3-5 Pages per person and PP) (Font 12 Double Space)	June 18
As we determine Group or Individual	20 Percent	An Independent Research Case/Develop a Strategy for Social Policy on an Issue of Interest and Concern Locally (3-5 Pages per person and PP) (Font 12 Double Space)	June 25

Social Movement Presentation Project			
Final Paper	20 percent	A final paper Addressing a Social Movement of Particular Concern (6-8 pages Font 12 Double Space) Please be prepared to discuss your essay in class.	Due at Final Class Session on July 2

*Criteria and guidelines will be posted on course management system

*Testing Vehicle and Percentage May Be Changed to Meet Course Needs (If we change a course component its percentage will be distributed among the remaining major components as determined by the instructor.)

Grading Scale

A.....94-100	B.....84-86	C.....74-76	
A-.....90-93	B-.....80-83	C-.....70-73	
B+.....87-89	C+.....77-79	D.....60-69	F.....59 or less

Shortened Calendar and Assignments

Date	Topic	Book/Reading Prepared for Day of Class *	Home Work and Questions to Consider
June 2	What is your social Movement?	BB Reading: Origins of Social Movement (This reading we will most likely get to on June 3)	Please bring in a 2 page summary outlining a social movement that is important for you? Be prepared to present the Premise of this movement. Are you satisfied with the action taking place to address your movement in your society? What are weaknesses or opportunities not being taken advantage of?
June 3	What is a Social Movement and its Contours	Blackboard Chapter 1	
June 4	The Theory of	Blackboard Chapter 2	

	Collective Action, Strain and Social Movements		
June 8	Resource Mobilization, Political Process and New Social Movement Theories	Blackboard Chapter 2	
June 9	Other Contours of the Social Movement from a Conceptual Perspective	Blackboard Chapter 3 and Approaches Document	
June 18		Presentation Project 1 (4 groups/ 30 minutes per group)	
June 22	Global Justice Movement	BB Reading	
June 23	Global Justice Movement	BB Reading	
June 24	SuperClass and Inequality Influence on Organizing Social Movements	BB Reading	
June 25		Presentation Project 2: (4 presentations at 30 minutes) each on Coalitions and Advancement of Idea	
June 29	Civil Rights Movement	BB Reading/in class film	
June 30	Poland/Ukraine and Eastern Europe Movements	BB Reading/ in class film	
July 1	Various Conclusions and Environmental Movement	BB Reading	
July 2	Conclusions to Social Movement	Please present your reflections to the class in Summary	Final Paper is Due Please bring laptop computer to class

***This syllabus may be changed by the instructor at any time. Updated versions of the syllabus will be provided. It is the student's responsibility to track updates on the course management system daily. Likewise, additional or alternative readings as well as homework assignments may be assigned throughout the course. It is your responsibility to keep track of them and to ask a classmate if you have been absent.**