

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Sociology 3422-090

University of Utah, Fall 2024

Online Course

Instructor: Marcel Paret, marcel.paret@soc.utah.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 12:30pm – 1:30pm via Zoom
(sign up for office hours required through SignUpGenius)

Course Description

This course introduces the sociology of social movements and collective resistance. We will consider definitions of social movements, the varied organizational forms and tactics they develop, the identities and demands that they promote, and their influence on society. We will explore these issues primarily through the lens of prominent social movements – mostly, but not exclusively, in the United States – from the worker, civil rights, and women’s movements of the 20th century to more recent movements such as Occupy, MeToo, the Egyptian Revolution, Black Lives Matter, and student protests in support of Palestine. A central goal of this course is to highlight the political dimensions of social movements: the ways in which they challenge the status quo and seek to transform social relations.

The objectives of the course include:

- to develop an understanding of what social movements entail;
- to develop familiarity with sociological concepts and theories regarding social movements and collective resistance;
- to learn about prominent social movements and their influence on society;
- to examine the similarities, differences, and connections between varied social movements, including both recent movements and movements from the 20th century.

Modules

8/19 – 8/25	[01] Definitions and theories
8/26 – 9/1	[02] Worker movements
9/2 – 9/8	[03] Occupy movement
9/9 – 9/15	[04] Egyptian revolution
9/16 – 9/22	[05] Movie week
9/23 – 9/29	[06] Feminist movements
9/30 – 10/6	[07] MeToo
10/7 – 10/13	FALL BREAK
10/14 – 10/20	[08] LGBTQ movements
10/21 – 10/27	[09] Civil rights and immigrant rights
10/28 – 11/3	[10] Tea Party to Trump
11/4 – 11/10	[11] Disability rights movement
11/11 – 11/17	[12] Black Lives Matter
11/18 – 11/24	[13] Student protests for Palestine
11/25 – 12/1	THANKSGIVING WEEK
12/2 – 12/5	[14] Climate change activism

Assignment deadlines, in chronological order

Initial reflection	8/23
Module 02 survey – worker movements	8/30
Module 03 survey – Occupy movement	9/6
Module 04 survey – Egyptian revolution	9/13
Essay #1: movie report	9/20
Module 06 survey – feminist movements	9/27
Conversation report #1	9/30
Module 07 survey – MeToo	10/4
Module 08 survey – LGBTQ movements	10/18
Essay #2: activist biography	10/20
Module 09 survey – Civil rights and immigrant rights	10/25
Module 10 survey – Tea Party to Trump	11/1
Conversation report #2	11/4
Module 11 survey – disability rights movement	11/8
Module 12 survey – Black Lives Matter	11/15
Module 13 survey – student protests for Palestine	11/22
Essay #3: changing the world	12/1
Module 14 survey – climate change activism	12/5
Conversation report #3	12/9
Final reflection	12/9

Online course

This is a fully online course. All of the lectures, activities, and assignments will take place online, through Canvas. The core content of the course includes readings, video lectures, and assignments, all of which you can access through the links on the home page of the Canvas site for this course. You must submit all assignments through Canvas.

Communication via “Announcements”

Most of the relevant information you need will be posted on the “Course Orientation” page and the Module pages (a separate page within Canvas for each of the 14 Modules). Beyond this content, I will communicate with the class primarily through the Announcements section of Canvas. Please make sure that you check Announcements regularly, and that you adjust your settings to have Announcements sent to your email (go to “Account” on the far left side of Canvas, then choose “Notifications” and adjust accordingly).

Reading and movies

Reading is an essential part of this course. I do not assign a lot of reading because I expect that you will actually do the reading! The weekly video lectures, and the in-person meetings, will be much more valuable, and make a lot more sense, if you have already completed the reading.

You will need to obtain access to movies for the “Movie Report” assignment (Module 5) and for the week on the disability rights movement (Module 11). Please see the relevant modules for further details.

You do NOT need to purchase any books for this course.

Office hours

I will hold virtual office hours through Zoom every week on Wednesday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. All students are welcome, and I encourage you to visit me for a chat for any reason. It always helps if you come prepared with some questions, but this is not required.

To visit my office hours, please sign up for one or two 10-minute time slots using SignUpGenius. If you think you need more than 20 minutes, please email me (marcel.paret@soc.utah.edu) to confirm. At the selected time, you can get to my office hours by accessing Zoom.

The links you need to access SignUpGenius and the Zoom chat room are available in Canvas under the Office Hours/Contact Me page.

Assignments and components of your grade

Your grade for the course will be based on four components, as outlined below. You are welcome to work with other students on any of the assignments, but you must complete and submit the final product of your work individually, on your own. Please see the list above for deadlines.

Reflections (2):

These questionnaires will require you to reflect on the course. They include an initial review at the beginning, a mid-semester assessment, and a final evaluation at the end.

Reflections are worth 5 points each. There is no partial credit. You will receive 5 points if, and only if, you answer all of the survey questions completely and thoughtfully.

Module surveys (12):

These brief surveys will primarily ask you to consider how the course material relates to your own life and contemporary society, and to evaluate its relevance or value. As part of this, you will be required to access and evaluate additional content such as videos or news articles. There will be 12 Module Survey assignments.

Module surveys are worth 4 points each. There is no partial credit. You will receive 4 points if, and only if, you answer all of the survey questions completely and thoughtfully.

Essays (3):

Each student must complete 3 short essays of 250-350 words each. These essays will require you to demonstrate comprehension of the course material. They will cover: 1) a movie report; 2) an activist biography; and 3) changing the world with social movements.

Essays are worth 8 points each. For each essay, you will receive one of the following grades: check-plus (8 points); check (6 points); check-minus (4 points).

Conversations (3):

Each student must complete 3 video chat “conversations.” These include 15-20 minute (or more) video chats with 1-2 other people about the results of the Module Surveys. **Please note that these conversations should take place by video (most likely via Zoom). Email and texting are NOT acceptable ways to complete this assignment.** You will have to prepare by reviewing the results of the relevant surveys. Afterwards, you will submit a 100-150 word “conversation report.” The first two conversations will take place with pre-assigned groups of students in the course; the third will take place with somebody outside of the course.

Each conversation report is worth 6 points. For each conversation report, you will receive one of the following grades: check-plus (6 points); check (4 points); check-minus (2 points).

Grade calculation

Your final grade will depend on the following components:

Reflections	10%	2 reflections, 5 points each (10 points)
Module surveys	48%	12 surveys, 4 points each (48 points)
Essays	24%	3 essays, 8 points each (24 points)
Conversations	18%	3 conversation reports, 6 points each (18 points)
Total	100%	100 total points

Determination of the final letter grade for the overall course:

It is possible to earn 100 total points in the course overall. The total points you earn will determine your final letter grade in the course.

Total points will translate into final letter grades as follows:

A+	100 points
A	96-99 points
A-	91-95 points
B+	86-90 points
B	80-85 points
B-	75-79 points
C+	70-74 points
C	65-69 points
C-	60-64 points
D	55-59 points
E	0-54 points

Safety

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Disability services

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the [Center for Disability Services](#). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

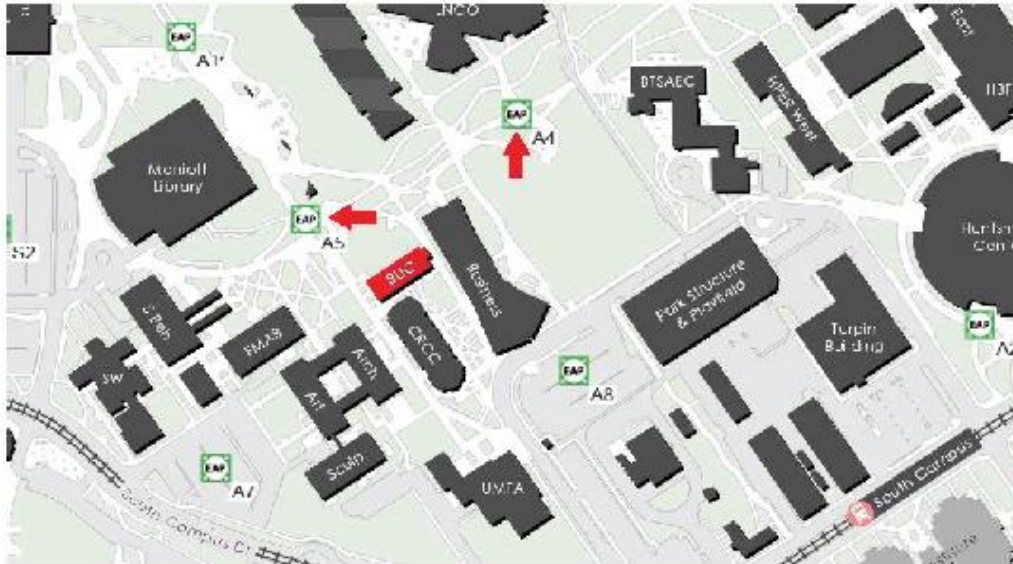
Academic misconduct

It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>.

Sexual misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

