SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Social Sciences · Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Social Change

SOCI 163

Summer 2025   Section 80   Fully Online   3 Unit(s)   06/02/2025 to 07/03/2025   Modified 06/01/2025

👤 Contact Information

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Class Information:
Modality: Online, Asynchronous

🕐 Course Information

Social movements are at the heart of social change and collective action, shaping societies by challenging power structures, advocating for justice, and pushing for transformation. This course examines what social movements are, how they emerge, and why they succeed or fail in creating social change. We will begin by defining social movements and understanding their role in historical and contemporary contexts. We will then explore how social movements are classified, looking at different types such as reform, revolutionary, resistance, and alternative movements. To better understand how these movements operate, we will engage with key sociological theories, including resource mobilization, political process, and framing theory.

The most critical focus of the course will be analyzing how and why social movements lead to social change. By studying historical and contemporary cases, we will investigate the factors that contribute to the success of movements, the challenges they face, and the lasting impact they have on society. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics of social movements and their role in shaping the world around us.

Please note that this is a 3 credit class occurring over the course of 5 weeks. This means we are working at an accelerated pace - covering 15 weeks of class in 5 weeks.

Typically in a 15 week class, you are expected to do 2.5 hours of lecture and 6 hours of work outside of class per week.

We will be covering about 1 hours of content a day (5 hours per week). Your workload may also exceed the traditional requirements.

🖥 Course Description and Requisites

Analysis of causes, consequences and the role of individuals, organizations and social structures in producing social change.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

AI Policy

I understand that as people living through the advent of AI there is a temptation to use it for everything – it is a really interesting piece of technology! However, in this classroom your writing process matters as much as your final product. What does this mean for you?

To protect academic integrity and support your development as a writer, the following rules apply to all assignments:

- *Google Docs Requirement*
  - For each new assignment you must start a shared google doc which you will use —from brainstorming to final draft.

  - This Google Doc must be created at the start of your writing process, not at the end.

  - You must share the document with me as an editor by the due date.

- *No Copy-Pasting*
  - Any use of copy and paste from outside sources including but not limited to: your own work, AI tools (ChatGPT, Grammarly, Quillbot, etc.), or third-party drafts is prohibited.

  - Copy-pasting will be treated as evidence of unauthorized assistance. This includes:
    - Pasting in AI-generated drafts

    - Pasting from paraphrasing tools

    - Pasting in large segments revised elsewhere

- *AI Use Is Prohibited*
  - No AI tools of any kind may be used at any stage of the writing process—including for idea generation, outlining, grammar editing, or rewording.

  - The goal is for you to write and revise using your own thinking and voice.

- *Writing History Matters*
  - I will periodically review your Google Doc's **version history**.
  - Documents that show unusual revision patterns, late-stage pasting, or evidence of outside tool use may be investigated.

Please Note:

Any deviation from these requirements is a choice and will result in a failing grade on the assignment (40%).

Any document that shows pasted-in content will receive a failing grade (40%) for the assignment.

Violations may be referred for academic misconduct.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes a range of prohibited behaviors such as plagiarism, cheating on quizzes and exams, working on exams as a group etc. Plagiarism is the most common of these offenses and so I want to take a little time to clarify what plagiarism constitutes.

In the most basic sense, plagiarism is taking the thoughts, ideas, opinions, or work of others and presenting it as your own. It happens in a variety of ways sometimes by accident (like paraphrasing an idea and forgetting to cite), or on purpose (like directly copying or buying a paper), but no matter the context plagiarism is plagiarism.

Please be aware you are responsible for knowing about the various types of Academic Dishonesty located in your student catalogue. Failure to read the catalogue does not excuse academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism also includes copying your own work. You cannot "double dip", meaning you cannot (1) submit the same paper for two courses, (2) use parts of a paper in one class and insert them into another, or (3) submit any of your work as a "new assignment" which was previously submitted elsewhere (either in this class or in another class).

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. If such an act occurs, there are several avenues that I may pursue ranging anywhere from having you redo the assignment or assigning a zero, to assigning an F for the course. In addition to these individual punishments, I will write up an Academic Dishonesty Incident Report beginning with the very first act of plagiarism. These reports are sent to the Academic Affairs Office. Continued plagiarism reports could result in expulsion from the university. If you are having trouble understanding plagiarism it is your responsibility to see me during office hours for further help.

Contacting the Professor

I prefer you email me via Canvas. That way I have a constant visual reminder that an email is waiting and it won't get lost in my school inbox. I attempt to respond within 24-48 business hours (excluding weekends and holidays).

This means that if you email me after Wednesday, I have until the next week to respond. If something is urgent, like a question about a project, please do not wait until the last minute. I cannot guarantee that I will get back to you immediately.

If I haven't gotten back to you in 48 hours, please send a follow-up email.

Canvas Issues

Canvas does not usually crash for one student only. In the case of a school-wide Canvas issue, the university will send out an announcement. I will then make an announcement about potential assignment extensions.

In the case you are having an individual technical issue that hinders your ability to submit an assignment on Canvas, please email me the assignment ASAP.

If you have general questions about Canvas, please feel free to [click on this link (https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/frequently-asked-questions/canvas-frequently-asked-questions.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/frequently-asked-questions/canvas-frequently-asked-questions.php).

Feedback on Assignments

Yes, I love giving feedback on assignments! While some assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis and won't require detailed feedback, others will be assessed using rubrics and I'll provide constructive feedback accordingly.

Analytic rubrics are the common feedback tool for qualitative assignments. They will assess each requirement for an assignment, and using these categories, I will give you general feedback.

This type of feedback provides overarching impressions and broad suggestions rather than in-depth critique. It may include comments on overall structure, clarity, or tone, but does not typically address specific sentences, grammar, or detailed content points. General feedback is useful for understanding how a piece is received as a whole and identifying key areas for improvement without going into extensive detail.

Note: If you would like additional (specific) feedback on an assignment, please include a comment with your submission, and I will follow up with you.

File Corruption

It is the student's responsibility to check that each assignment has been properly submitted and is capable of being opened. All assignments that are unable to be opened – whether that is due to corruption of files, wrong links, or failure to provide permissions (editor power) – will be marked as

missing.

Any re-submissions after the due date will be considered late in accordance with the late policy.

Grading

I will begin grading assignments in the order in which they are received. My goal is to have assignments graded two weeks after submission at the absolute latest.

Please note: If you turn in your assignment late, I will attempt to grade your assignment in a timely manner, but I cannot make guarantees. New assignments are given priority.

Internet Connectivity Issues

In the event that you are having internet connection issues and need to turn in an assignment, each document on your computer shows when you created the document and when you last modified it. I want you to email me a picture of the date created and date modified on the assignment, whenever your internet services are restored. You will receive proper credit so long as it was completed on time.

Late Policy

I completely understand that your lives are busy, and/or you may experience poor health during certain points in the semester. As a professor, we go through this too. To that end, I have created a late policy that considers individual situations and gives you an on-ramp back to the course. Unless otherwise noted, late submissions will be accepted and docked points.

In order to utilize the late policy, you will need to write a note in the comment box of the assignment indicating you need an extension prior to the due date.

Each day you will get a 5 percent penalty for late work. After 7 days no late assignment will be accepted. All work for this class must be turned in by the final day of class (7/3/25)

If you have further questions about the late policy, please email me.

Please note: You do not need to prove that you have a worthy reason in order to use these policies. If you need them, you need them. No moral judgment is assigned to the use of the late policies, nor does it impact my view of you as a person.

Makeup Exams

Because this is an online class and you will have ample time to take the exam, there are no makeups allowed for exams this semester.

Program Information

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 Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

1. Students will be able to define social movements, describe their key characteristics, and analyze their role in historical and contemporary social change.

2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the various types of social movements, distinguishing between reform, revolutionary, resistance, and alternative movements, and providing examples of each.

3. Students will critically engage with major sociological theories, such as resource mobilization, political process, and framing theory, to analyze how movements emerge, sustain themselves, and achieve their goals.

4. Students will assess the conditions that contribute to the success or failure of social movements and explain how they influence policies, institutions, and cultural shifts over time.

📘 Course Materials

1. Students will be required to buy or rent one textbook: The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts by Goodwin and Jasper.

   - Note: I am aware this reader can be found on Libgen for free. However, I nor the University, can legally condone pirating textbooks.

2. All other readings will be provided on your Canvas Page. Do not purchase any texts.

3. For this course you will also be required to have a working iPad, laptop, or other such device in order to participate fully in class.

📋 Course Requirements and Assignments

Homework: Mini-Action Projects

Instead of writing a traditional discussion post, you will create a piece of persuasive public messaging on behalf of a current social movement. It can be a social movement that succeeded, or, a social movement that failed to take off. This is your chance to step into the role of a movement participant or organizer with the goal of trying to educate, inspire, or mobilize others. Your goal is to communicate the movement's **message** clearly, in a format the public would actually see and engage with.

You will do this by engaging with one of the following creative mediums: slogan design, Meme or GIF, hashtags, protest chant or song verse, mobilization flyer or digital handout, sidewalk stencil / sticker / zine page

Each mini-action project is worth up to 10 points: 5 points for completing the core task, 2 points for creativity and relevance, and up to 3 additional points for engaging in the optional Challenge Track and demonstrating creativity and thoroughness. The lowest project score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Note: Assignments are due on Friday @ 5pm. You will have a 48 hour grace period where I will not deduct points. After Sunday, the late policy goes into effect. Remember you must let me know prior to the Friday deadline, if you need to use the late policy.

If you choose to complete the challenge track and respond to a classmate, you must respond by Sunday @ 5pm to receive credit.

Quizzes: Reading Quizzes

Each week students will participate in a weekly reading quiz. Quizzes will be worth 10 points, 5 questions long, and timed. Questions will be multiple choice and may include types of questions about definitions, theoretical concepts, and/or application of concepts.

Note: Assignments are due on Friday @ 5pm. You will have a 48 hour grace period where I will not deduct points. After Sunday, the late policy goes into effect. Remember you must let me know prior to the Friday deadline, if you need to use the late policy.

Lowest grade will be dropped.

Exam: Midterm

During Week 2, you will participate in a midterm. The midterm will be 25 questions long, multiple choice, and timed. You will receive approximately 50 minutes to complete this exam. Questions will be based in both the reading and the lecture.

To study for the midterm, you can do the following:

- review your weekly lecture and reading notes
- make notecards to test yourself

Midterm will open June 13th @ 7am and close promptly on June 16th @ 5pm.

No makeups or late midterms will be accepted.

Exam: Final Exam

At the end of the semester, you will participate in a final exam. Final exams will be 25 questions long, multiple choice, and timed. You will receive approximately 50 minutes to complete this exam. Questions will be based in both the reading and the lecture.

To study for the exam, you can do the following:

- review your past quiz results and go over the answers.
- review your weekly notes
- make notecards to test yourself

Exams will open June 30th @ 7am and close promptly on July 3rd @ 5pm.

No makeups or late exams will be accepted.

Extra Credit: Note-taking

Each week students will have an opportunity to earn two extra credit points by submitting a structured note-taking assignment. This extra credit assignment includes identifying at least 3 key terms or concepts (with definitions written in your own words) and noting something confusing, surprising, or interesting during lecture.

Note: Extra Credit Assignments are due on Friday @ 5pm. Late Policy does not apply to this opportunity.

✔ Grading Information

I will round up if your grade is .5 or above only. Meaning if you have 93.5%, I will round that number up. If you have a 93.4%, however, your grade will be rounded down to 93%.

Breakdown

The final class letter grade will be assigned as follows.

- A plus: 97 - 100%
- A: 94 - 96%
- A minus: 90 – 93%
- B plus: 87 - 89%
- B: 83 - 86%
- B minus: 80 - 82%
- C plus: 77 - 79%
- C: 73 - 76%
- C minus: 70 - 72%
- D plus: 67 - 69%
- D: 63 - 66%
- D minus: 60 - 62%

- F: 59% and Below

🏛 University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/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 (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Coursework Helping Ongoing Retention and Engagement	Assignments Due Friday @ 5pm (unless noted otherwise)	Special Dates
1	What is social change and how does it happen?	- Goodwin and Jasper, Editors Introduction (pg. 3-7) - Goodwin and Jasper, Introduction (pg. 9-12) - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 2 (13-22) - Tilly and Wood, Ch. 9 (177-190)	- Notes 1 (opt.) - Reading Quiz 1 - Mini-Action Project 1	6/2: First day of Instruction 6/3: Last day to drop class for 100% refund 6/4: Last day to Drop without "W" grade, 75% refund 6/5: Drop class with "W" grade, MUST use Course Drop/Withdrawal Petition, No refund

2	When and why do movements occur?	- Harper and Licht, Ch. 8 - Harper and Licht, Ch. 9 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 13	- Notes 2 (opt.) - Reading Quiz 2 - Mini-Action Project 2 - Midterm (6/13 - 6/16)	6/10: Add classes using Late Enrollment Petition (https://www.sjsu.edu/current/summer/forms.php) **Fees due in 3 days** 6/11: Payment Due Date for Registration from 5/22 - 6/9
3	Who joins or supports movements?	- Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 7 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 9 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 12	- Notes 3 (opt.) - Reading quiz 3 - Mini-Action Project 3	
4	How are movements organized?	- Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 17 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 20 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 21 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 28	- Notes 4 (opt.) - Reading Quiz 4 - Mini-Action Project 4	
5	What social changes do movements bring about?	- Harper and Licht, Ch. 13 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 36 - Goodwin and Jasper, Ch. 39	- Notes 5 (opt.) - Reading Quiz 5 - Mini-Action Project 5 - Final Exam	7/3: Last day - of instruction - Finals - to submit petition for course drop / withdrawal