Dr. Zengie Mangaliso
Class Meeting: On-line
Virtual Office Hours: Weekdays till 9 pm
Physical Office Hours: MW 12-1pm; T 4-5pm, and also by appointment
Office & Telephone #: Modular Hall 101 F, 413-572-5502
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Text

On-line readings


Account: From Conventional to Expressive to Acting Crowds

A Case Study: Yungay, Peru.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE**

Most human behavior is routine and is guided by clearly defined cultural norms. Circumstances do arise however where there are no clearly defined cultural guidelines. Under such circumstances novel kinds of behavior spontaneously emerge. Faced with urgent and unusual circumstances that cannot be resolved through conventional ways and established institutions, people interact with each other and consider alternative ways towards appropriate behavior. Such alternatives may include sit-ins, demonstrations, and “inappropriate” behavior such as rioting. As we know, sit-ins, demonstrations, and riots have been part of the history of our society and worlds’ societies. However, the same behaviors have resulted in the destruction of property and looting, in some instances some people have been injured or killed. In other words, their consequences have been destructive to society.

Collective behavior however, while potentially destructive, does not always result in behavior that is as violent as portrayed above. Sometimes individuals express themselves and their frustrations in an organized and civil manner. Ordinarily, they will form what is termed social movements. In the U.S. we find various kinds of social movements. Groups whose objective is to bring about change, or prevent change in society form these movements deliberately. In this course, we will have a chance to examine various kinds of collective behavior, ranging from the most spontaneous and destructive such as riots, to the most organized and constructive, such as social movements. We will also examine the conditions most likely to produce various kinds of collective behavior.

**Learning outcomes of the course**

1. To gain a clear understanding of what the field of collective behavior in the social sciences captures.

2. Critically assess the relationship between the political economy and collective behavior.
3. Ability to identify the different theoretical and methodological approaches to collective behavior.

4. Ability to identify and critically evaluate the different theoretical approaches to understanding social movements in particular as part of collective behavior.

5. To gain a basic knowledge of the landscape of the various contemporary U.S. social movements.

6. To be able to write more effectively, and critically.

7. Begin to think about, and devise ways of engaging in social change, as individuals, or as a collective.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There will be three exams. In addition, there will be a research paper. Detailed instructions on the research paper will be posted on-line. Participation in all on-line discussions is encouraged and is an indicator of attendance and involvement in the class. The final course grade will be computed in the following manner:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>First exam</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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**A NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARIZING**

As you know, plagiarizing is cheating. Plagiarizing is defined be the University as using intellectual work done and written by others without giving the necessary acknowledgement and attribution. For details on what constitutes plagiarizing, refer to the on-line Academic Honesty Policy found under Odyssey in the President’s Office.

For your information it is very easy for Professor to detect whole passages, paragraphs, and whole sentences that have been plagiarized. To spare yourself from embarrassment and grief, do attribute any ideas that are not originally yours, by citing the source.