

SOCIOLOGY 0314: COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR

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Meeting on-line

Office Hours: MW 12-1pm; T 2:30-3:30 pm, and also by appointment

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Text



Collective Behavior and Social Movements: Process and Structure, authored by Gary T. Marx and Douglas McAdam, Prentice Hall, 1994.

On-line readings

“The Field of Collective Behavior” by Ralph Turner and Lewis Killian. *Collective Behavior*, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1987.

“The Nature of Collective Behavior”, by Neil J. Smelser. *Theory of Collective Behavior*, Macmillan Free Press, New York, 1963.

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.

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 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:

First exam	20%
Second exam	20%
Third exam	20%
Research Paper	25%
Class Participation	15%
Total	100%