Department: Sociology

Course number: Soci 290W

Title: Social Movements and Social Change

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Brad Wright


Soci 290W. Social Movements and Social Change. Prerequisite: Engl 110 or 111 or 250.

W Criteria:

The writing assignments in this course will consist of a fifteen-page term paper, written as three separate five-page papers revised together as well as an essay-based midterm and final exam. The five page papers will each address a particular aspect of a specific social movement, chosen by the student, in consultation with me. The papers will be based on independent research. By doing focused research on a particular social movement throughout the semester, the students will not only improve their writing and research skills, but they will be able to apply the theoretical concepts learned in class to a particular case study.

The term paper will count for 60% of the grade, the essay exams for 30% of the grade. Thus students can only pass the class if they pass the writing portion of the class. Students will be apprised of this in the course syllabus.

Students will be required to turn in a detailed outline for each of the 3 five page papers that will be returned to the student with comments. Then students will be required to turn in a rough draft of each of the papers, which I will return to them with written comments. The comments will be returned prior to the students having to write the next paper. Each of these three papers will serve as a part of their fifteen-page term paper, which they must then turn in at the end of the semester. The term paper must address the comments given on their rough drafts.

Throughout the class, I will also provide formal instruction to the entire class based on their needs, as determined by their outlines and rough drafts. I will also teach them how to do a research paper.

As stated above, the three five-page papers that serve as rough drafts will be returned with comments. Each subsequent paper should benefit from the comments given on earlier papers. The students will then rewrite each of the papers based on the written comments and combine them into one long research paper to be turned in at the end of the semester.

Role of Grad Students: None