HIST 4320:001 U.S. Cultural Experience  
Social and Cultural Movements in the 20th Century  
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description
In this course, we will examine key issues in U.S. social justice movements from the 20th century. We will explore how and why social movements have emerged as well as how they have impacted, and continue to impact, political and cultural debates in American society. Course materials will engage a variety of social and cultural movements, specifically those situated around race, class, and gender.

Along the way, our goal will be to investigate how these movements were interrelated – how women were key activists in the freedom struggle, how African-American workers sought to integrate unions, how race and class influenced a woman’s experience with reproductive rights – and how these connections either helped each movement or how they hindered them. Race, class, and gender, therefore, will be central to our understanding social movements.

Student Learning Outcomes
- Trace and interpret major themes in U.S. social movement history through the course readings, writing assignments, and in-class discussions.
- Analyze primary documents and secondary sources by writing a series of analytical essays on the course readings.
- Present arguments and acknowledge a variety of historical perspectives in written and oral form through written work and in-class discussion.
- Explain the contexts that gave rise to social movements, analyze the strategies and tactics used, understand how they were interrelated, and evaluate their legacies.

Required Texts
- Annelise Orleck, "We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now": The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages (Boston: Beacon Press, 2018).
Other readings are posted to Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

**Attention and Participation (25%):** One or two absences for serious illness or other genuine emergency may be unavoidable, but more than two absences can be severely disruptive both to your own learning and to the intellectual development of the other members of the class. I will be concerned by a pattern of absence regardless of the reason. Students with excessive absences can expect to receive a participation grade no higher than C. Be aware, however, that regular attendance is only the bare minimum. To be adequately prepared for class, students need to have completed the assigned reading listed on the schedule below. Class sessions will be a mix of lecture, film, and discussion, and students are expected to participate regularly in these discussions. I will regularly ask you to complete short quizzes, in-class writing, and complete group activities. These cannot be made up and will be factored into your participation grade.

**Discussion Questions (5%):** Each week, two to three students will submit questions based on the assigned texts to start out discussions on Thursdays.

**Exams (40%):** There will be two take-home exams for this course. These exams will be a combination of historical identifications, attributions, and short essays based on class discussions, lectures, films, and readings. These exams are not cumulative.

**Research Project (30%):** Each student will write a research paper focused on an American social movement of their choosing. Outside research of primary and secondary materials will be required. I will provide additional instructions and help in developing a topic and proposal. The essay should be 6 to 8 pages, double-spaced, with citations in proper Turabian style.

**Grading Scale:**  
A = 90 – 100  B = 80 – 89  C = 70 – 79  D = 60 – 69  F = 59 and below

**Late Work/Make Ups**

If you need an extension due to an emergency, you must email me your request at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the instructor or as mandated by law or university policy. Late assignments will be penalized by a reduction in grade level for every day they are overdue, i.e., from A to A-, from A- to B+, etc. Assignments that are five days or more overdue will not be accepted. Failure to complete *all* required components of the course may result in a failing grade for the course as a whole.

**Academic Integrity**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure of the assignment, at minimum.
Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class for the spring semester is April 10, 2020.
Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

Schedule of Topics and Readings
The schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Week 1
- Tuesday, January 21: Course Introduction
- Thursday, January 23: Theories of Power, Resistance, and Identity

Week 2 // Early Labor Movement
- Tuesday, January 28
- Thursday, January 30

Week 3 // Progressives, Socialists, and Feminists
- Tuesday, February 4
- Thursday, February 6

Week 4 // The 1920s
- Tuesday, February 11
- Thursday, February 13

Week 5 // The Great Depression
- Tuesday, February 18
- Thursday, February 20

Week 6 // The Popular Front
- Tuesday, February 25
- Thursday, February 27

Week 7 // WW2, Cold War, and Anti-Nuclear
- Tuesday, March 3
- Thursday, March 5: Midterm Exam
Week 8 // Spring Break

Week 9 // Civil Rights Movement
  • Tuesday, March 17
  • Thursday, March 19

Week 10 // Black Power and New Left
  • Tuesday, March 24
  • Thursday, March 26

Week 11 // Chican@ Movement
  • Tuesday, March 31
  • Thursday, April 2

Week 12 // Feminist and LGBTQ+ Movements
  • Tuesday, April 6
  • Thursday, April 8
  ➔ Last day to drop a class is April 10

Week 13 // Conservative Backlash
  • Tuesday, April 14
  • Thursday, April 16

Week 14 // Modern Social Movements
  • Tuesday, April 21
  • Thursday, April 23

Week 15 // Modern Social Movements
  • Tuesday, April 28
  • Thursday, April 30
    □ Research projects due

Week 16 // Course Conclusion
  • Tuesday, May 5
  • Final Exam due