Sociology 3550.001
Collective Behavior
Spring 2013

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a survey course on collective behavior, the sociological specialty devoted to the study of
innovative, unstructured social phenomena such as emergent behavior in crowds; collective violence;
individual, group, and organizational behavior in disasters; collective preoccupations, and social
movements. The course will focus on two types of collective episodes: types of collective violence such
as terrorism and riots and unusual events and beliefs such as fads and UFO sightings. The course begins
with an overview of theories applied to collective episodes and later applies these theories to a variety of
different events.

OBJECTIVES:
❖ To understand the influence of localized, spontaneous collective actions on society and the
   individual.
❖ To distinguish between normative and collective behavior episodes
❖ To understand how dispersed collective behaviors affect society and the individual.
❖ To understand how society affects the consequences of collective actions
❖ To recognize collective behavior in your own life
❖ To critically think and analyze the world around you

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
This course is an online course using BLACKBOARD LEARN. It requires you to stay up and current on
the material, and to motivate yourself to complete tasks and assignments. You can access Blackboard
Learn at: http://learn.unt.edu. Please note: BlackBoard Learn is the next generation of Blackboard. It is
quite different then Blackboard Vista, and may take you some getting used to the new environment. I will
do everything I can to make things as easy as possible.

TEXTBOOK

Collective Violence (2nd Edition) by Steven E. Barkan and Lynne L. Snowden
Other readings will be available in the modules

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) Exams (100 pts each):</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Module Mastery Quizzes</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Short Essay</td>
<td>50</td>
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Total Possible points 480

Bonus Point Opportunities:
Introduction and End of Semester Discussions 20
(2 @) 10 points each)
GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

432 Points and Above = A
384 – 431 Points = B
336 – 384 Points = C
288 – 335 Points = D
287 or Below Points = F

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS:

1. **EXAMS**: You will be given three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings, learning modules, and any videos and/or films or other media included in the modules. Exams will be mostly multiple choice, but may include True/False, short answer, essays or matching. You will have a 48 hour window to take exams. With a two day exam window, there should be no reason you miss an exam. There will be no make-up exams given unless the student contacts me in advance with an excused University absence. **Online modules will close before the exam period starts so please plan your studying accordingly.**

EXAMS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLOSED NOTES. You will have one hour from the time you start the exam to finish. You will only be able to move forward in an exam. In other words, once you see a question, you must answer it. You cannot go back to it once you move to the next question.

Before you remain in this class, please think carefully about how exams will be given in this class. If you are not happy about the time limit or that you can only move forward and not back, **PLEASE DROP the CLASS NOW.** While this is an online class, I expect the work to be as rigorous as any face to face class. I fully understand your other online classes might be taught differently, but this class is not, and I will not alter how I test.

2. **Orientation Quiz**: You will start this semester by going to the ‘Start Here” link on the main page. This module will go over how to set up your computer and other important information including introduction to me and the syllabus. At the end of this module, you will have to complete a quiz. You must get 8/10 questions correct on this quiz to move on to the first module. The module will be available to you after you successfully complete the quiz.

3. **Module Mastery Quizzes**: At the end of each learning module, you will have a quiz that will consist of multiple choice, True and False and fill in the blank questions. These assessments are each worth 10 points with each question worth 1 point each. You may take the quiz up to 4 times. You will get the highest grade you earn as your final grade as long as that grade is over 70% or 7 out of 10 questions correct. If you get less than 7 out of 10 correct you will receive a zero (0). At the end of each attempt, you will get your score, but you will not know which questions you got wrong or right. These quizzes are to help you learn and master the material. For this method to work, you cannot wait until the last moment to work on modules. After taking a quiz and assessing how well you know the material, to improve your grade you need to go back in and work through the module again. Students who have been most successful in classes I’ve taught this way, not only read through modules, but take notes of important information just as they would do in a lecture class. Paying attention to the course material and doing well on these quizzes will overall help your final grade in the class.

The questions asked on the quizzes are different than questions asked on exams. Quiz questions tend to be very fact based, while exam questions are much more applied. Exams will be harder than quizzes.
4. **SHORT ESSAY:** You will complete one short essay in this class (about 5 pages, double spaced).

**NO LATE PAPERS OR EMAILED ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED. PLAN AHEAD.** Papers must be turned in via the proper link on Blackboard Learn.

**Collective Behavior in the News DUE By APRIL 1, 8am**

Collective Behavior is actually constantly happening around us. For this assignment, you need to find an example of collective behavior in the news and analyze the episode based on either Emergent Norm Theory or Value Added Theory. This episode of collective behavior must take place during the course of the semester (anything after January 14th).

While I am not picky over the length of the article, the article must have enough information to allow you to analyze the event. A short blurb probably will not be very effective. In your essay, you must first describe the episode and explain why you think the episode is collective behavior. You should explain it using the language of the course and of collective behavior. Your explanation of why you think it is collective behavior is a critical aspect of your overall paper grade. (See how your grade will be assessed below) Once you explain why it is collective behavior, you must apply one of the two theories to the episode. In other words, in the second half of your essay, you are trying to explain why the episode happened. Again, you must use correct theoretical language, and apply all the parts of the theory.

Your grade will be based on 1) explanation of episode and correct identification of an episode as collective behavior (15 pts); 2) ability to apply collective behavior theory to the episode (25 pts); 3) readability and following directions (5 pts); 4) uniqueness of episode (5 pts). While this is not an English class, you must use correct sentence structure and spelling. Should you need help writing an essay, please seek assistance from the UNT Writing Lab.

Your essay must have a link at the end to the article you are using as the basis of your paper. If you find the article in an actual newspaper or magazine, rather than online, please scan the article and include it in your paper. Papers without working links or a scanned copy of the article will receive a zero. Please make sure your link works before turning in your assignment. **You must turn in the assignment in either WORD or PDF format. I cannot read any other format paper. You will get a zero if you turn it in in another format.**

**Bonus Point Opportunity**

You will have two opportunities to earn bonus points. The points will simply be added to your point total not to a specific grade. After the drop/add period is over, I will put each of you randomly in a group of 10 other students. You will be asked a question in that group about the class. You will get 10 points if you actively participate in the discussion. Active participation means that you have posted an answer to the question, and posted to at least 3 other messages on more than 1 day. If you are not an active participant, you will get no bonus points. So it’s all or nothing. Your first opportunity will open by 1/21 and close on 2/3. Your second opportunity will open on 4/22 and close on 5/3. Each of these is worth 10 points.

**Additional Policies and Procedures**

**Cheating:** Cheating will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own assignments. I highly recommend that you DO NOT copy another person’s work. If you are caught cheating, you will fail this course, and be turned into the university for cheating.

**Important Information about Blackboard:** The Learning Management System used by UNT, Blackboard Learn, has a powerful tracking tool built in to the system. With this tool, I can see everything
you do while you are online in this course. This includes how often you log in, what you do while logged in, how much time you spend logged in and how long it takes you to answer each question on the exams. It likewise can analyze and determine if you are on the same network and system while taking exams, including how close you are sitting next to each other in a computer lab. In other words, if needed, I can pretty much catch and thwart most attempts at cheating. I can do this because I’ve caught students in the past. I don’t like doing this. The purpose of getting a degree is not only to learn the subject, but to also improve critical thinking skills which includes your ability to discern right and wrong. If this is a class you hope to blow off, this is the wrong class for you.

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The University of North Texas is very clear on this point. Students must do their own work. Cheating on exams, quizzes, plagiarism, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Detailed explanations of the UNT’s standards of academic integrity for students may be found in the UNT Policy Manual at http://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/student-standards-academic-integrity-18-1-16.

Students Requiring Special Accommodation

If you have a condition that requires accommodation in this course, please notify the instructor during the first week of class. Any necessary or appropriate accommodations will be made provided that timely notice is received, and that the arrangement is consistent with recommendations from Disability Services, when applicable. Students who require this type of assistance should contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at (940) 565-4323, or at TTY (940) 369-8652 to make appropriate arrangements. Information on the services provided by the ODA as well as application procedures are available at http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html. Information on UNT’s policies related to disability accommodations is available at http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14.

Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will be made only after a disability is officially verified.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

(1-2) Module 1- 1/14-1/27:
Topics: Getting Started; Syllabus Review
What is collective behavior?

(3)Module 2: 1/28- 2/3:
History and Theories of Collective Behavior, Part I
Read: Barkan and Snowden, Chapter 1

(4) Module 3: 2/ 4 -2/10:
History and Theories of Collective Behavior, Part II
Read: Barkan and Snowden, Chapter 2

(5) Module 4: 2/11-2/17:
Riots
Read: Barkan and Snowden Chapter 3

Week 6  2/18 – 2/24:
Exam 1 Modules 1-4 (2/23-2/24)

(7) Module 5: 2/25 – 3/3:
Protest and Revolution
Read: Barkan and Snowden Chapter 4

(8) Module 6: 3/4 – 3/10:
Mass Hysteria
Witch Craze
Reading Online

~~SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-17~~

(9) Module 7: 3/18-3/24
Hate Groups, Gangs and Survivalists
Read: Barkan and Snowden Chapters 7-8

(10) Module 8: 3/25 – 3/31:
Y2K Hysteria
Reading Online

(11) Week 11 4/1-4/7:
Exam 2 Modules 5 – 8 (4/6-4/7)
Paper Due 4/1, by 8am.

(12) Module 9: 4/8 – 4/14:
Collective Preoccupations: Fads and Fashion
UFOs
Readings Online

(13) Module 10: 4/15 – 4/21
Cults
Read: Barkan and Snowden Chapter 6

Rumor, Urban Myths and Urban Legends
Readings Online

(15) Module 12: 4/29-5/3
Terrorism
Read: Barkan and Snowden Chapters 5 and 9
NOTE: Shortened week due to final. Small module.

May 4-5: FINAL EXAM Modules 9 – 12