Syllabus: SOC 330 **Social Justice and Social Change**

Fall 2023
The Mennonite Sociological Collaborative (BU, GC, EMU)
T/TH 1 p.m.
on ZOOM

Instructor: **Chris Morrissey, PhD.**
Office: **304 Centennial Hall**
Office hours: **Check Moodle for most current schedule.**

Course Description:
This course is an experiential course in social action towards positive social change. Theory is integrated into practical social justice methodologies and community-based learning. Particular attention is paid to issues of power and powerlessness in domestic and/or international contexts. Prerequisite: SOC 152. This course may be taken as part of the Peace and Conflict Studies minor.

Learning objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. conduct issue development
2. build power
3. implement various strategies and tactics
4. conduct research (historical analysis, power map, target analysis)
5. work with the media
6. perform campaign implementation and evaluation plans

Required Materials

Scott Myers-Lipton, CHANGE! A Student Guide to Social Action, FIRST EDITION

Other readings will be provided for you via our course Moodle page.

HEALTHY CAMPUS
With COVID-19 and other viruses still present in our communities, we will need to continue to be mindful of keeping each other safe as we live together in our community of respect. Faculty members can opt to require masks in their classrooms and in their offices. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses, please do not attend class and contact the campus nurse. If you are attending class with minor symptoms, please consider wearing a mask. If you are placed in quarantine/isolation, your instructor will receive a notice from the registrar's office about your situation. At that point, you should also check with your instructor to establish a plan for continuing your coursework until you receive medical clearance.

Special Expectations Related to COVID-19
Students are expected to be in class in person throughout the semester. To accommodate the unusual challenges of the COVID pandemic, your professor will connect with you via ZOOM only if you are placed in quarantine or isolation by university officials. If you are in quarantine or isolation, your professor will be notified by the Registrar's Office that you will not be in class in person. While in the ZOOM classroom, students are required to have their video input on unless they have been approved by their instructor before class to video mute. Students are also expected to participate in class when on ZOOM. If students in the ZOOM classroom have their video muted without prior approval or they are not engaged in the class, they will be considered absent.

Your instructor will provide information about access to class materials and due dates of assignments for students in isolation as well as any exceptions to these guidelines.

Communication
Email is my preferred way to communicate with you for official class business. I will generally respond within 24 hours. On weekends, I will generally respond by Monday. Please do not send last minute communications with the expectations that I will respond immediately. Plan ahead so that I can offer you guidance or support in your class work in plenty of time to make course deadlines. Please do not be shy about talking to me or making an appointment for a more in-depth conversation.

Classroom Behavior
At Bluffton, we aim to be a community of respect working towards discovery and service. Our classroom behavior should facilitate this aim. We should engage each other, being willing to hear a variety of perspectives, and to be open to each other and differences of opinion. A special note on digital distractions: generally, we will not be using electronic devices (computers or phones) in class and these should not be on during class. *Because we are a ZOOM based class, please be sure to have your camera on throughout class. Also, please be on ZOOM in a safe, quiet place where you can focus.*

Request for Accommodations
Students with disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in the classroom, should register with the counselor for disability services early in the semester. This allows time for arrangements to be made, if appropriate. In accordance with federal laws, students requesting accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the counselor for disability services. Jacqui Slinger is located on the 3rd floor of College Hall (within the Learning Resource Center). She may also be reached at 419-358-3215 or slingerj@bluffton.edu.
Students from either GC or EMU should use their college's resources with respect to accommodations.

The Honor Code
As members of the Bluffton University community, we commit to being honest, trustworthy and honorable in our actions and relationships with each other both in and out of the classroom.
We agree to commit to learning and living in an environment where the values of honor, honesty and integrity are fundamental to the way we choose to live and learn. These foundational concepts have been an integral part of the university community since 1918. Subsequent generations of students, faculty and staff have continued to support and value this culture of mutual respect and trust. The Honor System places responsibility of honesty and integrity on each member of the community. Everyone has responsibility for ensuring that all academic work, by self and others, is conducted in ways that are reflective of these values.
Common understanding of our mutual commitment as a community is informed by a desire to live and learn in an environment based upon respect and trust. As a demonstration of this commitment as it relates to academic work, students are not proctored while taking examinations and write and sign the following pledge***: "I am unaware of any inappropriate aid having been given or received for this exam."*** The commitment to academic integrity is also extended to written work and is demonstrated through students writing and signing this pledge***: "I attest that that this work is my own and that the ideas of others are cited."*** It is expected that students will act honorably and will report any known or suspected violations of the honor system by themselves or others in all academic work.
In all cases, if a student cannot in good conscience sign the pledge, the student should notify the course instructor. In the event that the pledge is left unsigned and the student has not contacted the instructor, the course instructor will contact the student.

Cheating, plagiarism, fabricating, facilitating (intentionally providing inappropriate assistance to others), and misrepresentation are considered serious violations of the honor system. Each of these forms of dishonesty work against our community commitment to be honest, trustworthy and honorable in our actions and relationships with each other. Resolution of violations may take place within the context of the course or through the campus conduct system.
The honor system not only describes our expectations related to academic integrity; it is understood that the spirit of the honor system is meant to pervade all aspects of campus life. This ideal environment of mutual trust and respect for one another in all aspects of our community life is central to our desire to be a community of respect and is reflected in the Bluffton University Community of Respect Statement.

Grading

Short Reading Quizzes (15% of total grade)

The purpose of these very short quizzes (i.e., less than 5 minutes) is to encourage reading. In order to encourage reading, you will be given short quizzes throughout the semester. If you do the reading for each class, these short quizzes will be very easy to answer. I will drop the lowest two of your reading quiz grades. You cannot make up reading quizzes.

Portfolio and Log (40% of total grade)

The portfolio is where you demonstrate your knowledge of the text in light of your social action experiences. Therefore, you must integrate the text with your community work throughout each portfolio. With no integration of text, you cannot receive above a C on your portfolio. You can talk to your teammates, but all of the portfolios will be your own work.

In addition, you will most likely not receive higher than a C on your overall portfolio grade if you do not complete at least 25 hours of social action work (1.5 to 2 hours a week). Please use the log I will provide you to keep track of your community work, and then turn it in with the portfolios. Your portfolio and log will be collected every three to four weeks.

Participation (20% of total grade)

The purpose of evaluating your participation is to encourage and reward students who prepare for, and engage in, the habits of the mind. Thus, you will be evaluated on the extent and quality of your participation in the class. Your classroom participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

Excellence (A) requires that you play a leadership role in the large class discussion and your team, apply the text, discuss points articulately and respond intelligently to other's views; ask insightful questions, and take responsibility for the direction of the class discussion and your team.

Above average (B) requires that you participate regularly in the large class discussion and your team, demonstrate good knowledge of the text, discuss points articulately and respond intelligently to others' views, ask insightful questions, but you do not take a strong leadership role in the overall class discussion and the direction of your team.

Average (C) requires that you follow the discussion in the class and your team, make occasional comments, have a basic knowledge of the text, and sometimes ask questions in the large group and team.

Below average (D) requires that you occupy a seat and occasionally show signs of life.

Failure (F) requires that you occupy a seat but show no signs of life.

At the end of the course, you will be asked to evaluate your level of participation, as well as your teammates. This evaluation will be taken seriously when participation grades are determined.

Campaign Presentation and Binder (25% of total grade)

For the final exam, students give a group presentation on your social action campaign. In addition, your group will turn in a campaign binder, which will be evaluated. The binder may be used by future students when they choose their campaigns.

Grading Scale (Percentage of total possible points on the above)

A = 100-93 A- = 92.9-90 B+ = 89.9-87 B = 86.9-83 B- = 82.9-80
C+ = 79.9-77 C = 76.9-73 C- = 72.9-70 D+ = 69.9-67 D = 66.9-63 D- = 62.9-60
Failing = 59.9 and below

Absences
You can miss up to 3 classes for any reason. Beyond that, there are no excused absences. I will reserve the right to lower your final course grade by as much as five percent for excessive absences, one percentage point for each unexcused absence. I suggest you save your absences for a legitimate reason (illness, personal emergency, etc.).

Statement on the above
This syllabus serves as a statement of this course's expectations and requirements. It is not subject to change. Our course schedule on Moodle is subject to change to better serve our educational purpose.

Schedule

Please refer to our class Moodle site for a dynamic calendar of class events.