



WGSS 210 Social Movements

**Professor
Ferguson**

**Office: Odd
Fellows 217**

Spring 2024

**T/TH
1:30-2:45 pm**

Oddfellows 105 C



Student Hours:
M: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
W: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
F: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm



Email Hours

M-F 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

These are the hours you will receive a reply email from me.
For emergencies, please write "Emergency" in the subject line.

'WE SHALL OVERCOME'
Where The Civil Rights Anthem Came From



**Readings
&
Assignments
Review Syllabus**



**Policies & Other
Relevant Info
Review Syllabus**

Independent Reading Out of Class



This is a foundational class. Reading outside of class for class discussions is a major component of your work for class each day. When you read on your own, take notes both in the books and in your notebooks or laptop.

On average, you want to spend 2 hours of reading, notetaking, and thinking outside of class time everyday.

Canvas is our course learning management system. Everything you need to know about class policies, deadlines, assignments, etc. is on Canvas. Canvas lets you set up notifications when new assignments are posted or when new announcements are posted. Go ahead and set that up.

Send an email to canvasteam@allegheny.edu if you need help.

Canvas



Writing



Writing is a key element of the work you'll do for this class. Some of it will be formal, some of it informal. All of it will help you connect to the readings. Waiting until the last minute won't feel good. Practice drafts and ask for help. You'll be happy you did. Click [here](#) to schedule a free writing consultation.

Talking in Class



We learn best when we actively contribute to our class discussions. To do this, you need to take good notes and annotate your readings before class. Contributing to class means working to build our toolkits of knowledge together and it means doing it everyday and consistently. If you need help with this, come to office hours and we will figure out a strategy.

The best way to prepare for class is to take notes when you're reading. You can do this right in your book/article. It's called annotating. You've probably done it before in your educational career. Annotating, taking notes, writing out your questions, these are all really good ways to remember what you were thinking when you were reading. They are also great ways to have stuff to say in class, especially if that is something that freaks you out a little.

Taking Notes



Listening



Active listening is essential to engaging with ideas, to learning, and to empathy and understanding. Active listening doesn't mean we don't respond or keep quiet. It means we listen to each other, respect each other's chance to speak, and then consider the ideas presented really carefully and fully. It's also a great skill to learn for note-taking.

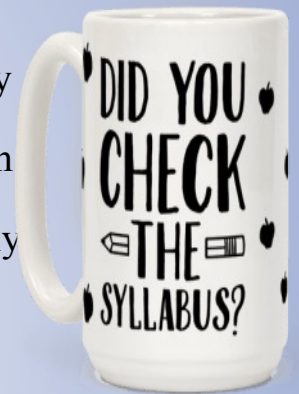
Course Description

This introductory course provides historical and contemporary contexts for understanding some of the key and sometimes invisible social movements that have taken shape in the U.S. This class begins with a brief overview of what WGSS is and what it's got to do with social movements and looks more specifically at how movements seek to make social change. The course spans the 20th and 21st century to provide an overview of the women's movement, labor movement, LGBTQAI+ movement, civil rights and black power movements, black lives matter movement, youth movement and other related efforts.

Learning Outcomes

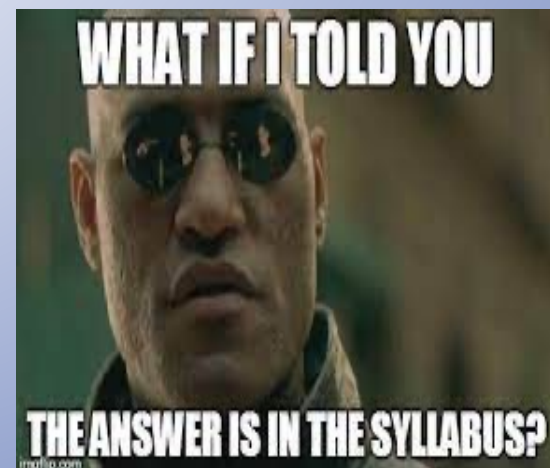
As this class progresses, you will:

- Understand key concepts that shaped individual movements historically and collectively inform contemporary calls for social change.
- Explore how ideas within historical and contemporary movements form the foundations of women's, gender & sexuality studies as a field.
- Analyze interlocking sociocultural relations of power by looking closely at how gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, and class structures play a role in how we experience the world.
- Engage in critical analysis that de-naturalizes hierarchies and cultural stereotypes of difference and diversity.
- Effectively communicate orally and in writing the significance of ideas and philosophies that shape U.S. social movements.



Materials and Texts

- Readings will be provided
- A small notebook, nothing fancy



Questions and Contexts

1 Under what kinds of societal conditions do movements for social change emerge? How were they started? What maintains them?

2 How do social movements benefit members of society? How can social movements potentially harm people?

3 How is social media likely to change how people pursue social change? How has it done so already?

4 What new social movements might exist in the future?

5 What can you do to be apart of the change?



Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies

DATES	SEMESTER AT A GLANCE
WEEK 1	WELCOME WEEK
	INTRODUCTIONS WELCOME PROFILES SYLLABUS QUIZ
	COURSE AND SYLLABUS OVERVIEW
WEEK 2	HOW DO WE CHANGE AMERICA?
	https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america https://www.bostonreview.net/articles/how-much-discomfort-is-the-whole-world-worth/
WEEK 3	ACTIVIST ON THE FRONTLINES
	Let This Radicalize You: Organizing and the Revolution of Reciprocal Care
WEEK 4	ACTIVISTS ON THE FRONTLINES
	Let This Radicalize You: Organizing and the Revolution of Reciprocal Care
WEEK 5	AMERICA'S CULTURE WARS
	CRITICAL RACE THEORY & MASSIVE RESISTANCE
WEEK 6	STOP COP CITY MOVEMENT
	READING AND MEDIA TBD
WEEK 7	MASS INCARCERATION & AMERICA'S PRISON NATION
	PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR BEGINNERS
WEEK 8	SPRING BREAK
	NO CLASS
WEEK 9	MIDTERM WEEK
	ESSAY

WEEK 10	MASS INCARCERATION & AMERICA'S PRISON NATION
	THE NEW JIM CROW 13 TH DOCUMENTARY
WEEK 11	PRISON ABOLITION
	ABOLITION FEMINISM NOW
WEEK 12	BLACK LIVES MATTER
	THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES
Week 13	CONFERENCE WEEK
	NO CLASS
Week 14	ME TOO MOVEMENT
	UNBOUND: MY STORY OF LIBERATION & THE BIRTH OF THE ME TOO MOVEME
Week 15	FINALS EXAM WEEK
	IN CLASS WRITING PROMPT
	IN CLASS WRITING PROMPT
	IN CLASS WRITING PROMPT
Week 16	LAST WEEK OF CLASS
	ZOOM MEETINGS W/PROFESSOR FERGUSON
	ZOOM MEETINGS W/PROFESSOR FERGUSON

Assignments

Syllabus Quiz = 20pts
Welcome Survey = 10pts
Weekly Close Reads (25pts x 9) = 255

Total Points = 275

Midterm = 75pts
Final Reflection Essay = 75pts
Total Points = 150

In-Class Contributions:

Consistently contributing, listening, and note-taking in daily class discussions in meaningful ways every single day (35 days x 5pts = 175)

Attendance:

Attendance = 35 classes x 3 points = 105

Total class points earned = 685



Distribution
Requirements:
HE & PD

HUMAN EXPERIENCE (HE)

The study of Human Experience explores human physical, mental, emotional, and/or spiritual experiences as conveyed in texts broadly defined. Through engagement with such texts, students develop an appreciation for human experiences and their representations.

Learning Outcome: students who successfully complete the HE requirement will demonstrate an understanding of how to interpret human experiences as conveyed in texts (social theory, queer theory, feminist theory, and critical race theory) and content, analyses, and statements issued by independent news media, Twitter feeds/campaigns, Blog posts, and podcasts).

POWER, PRIVILEGE & DIFFERENCE: (PD)

Understanding Power, Privilege, & Difference means understanding the role of power, privilege, prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, inequity, and oppression in human society, in both historical and contemporary contexts, and recognizing these dynamics in your own life and communities.

Learning Outcome: students who successfully complete this requirement will demonstrate an understanding of the historical and/or contemporary roles of power, privilege, and difference in human society.



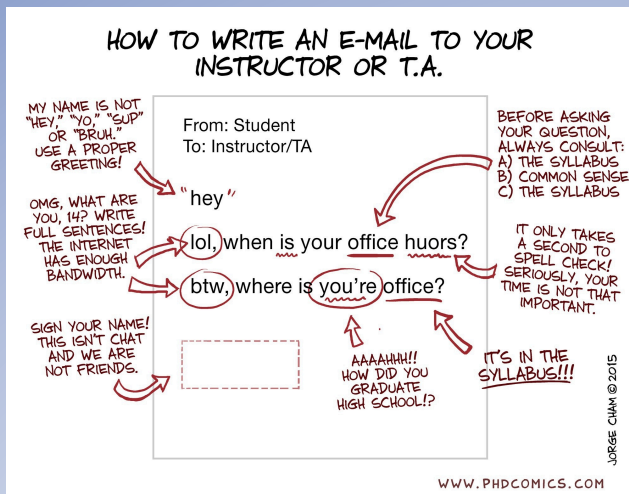
How Many Classes Can You Miss?

- I hope you don't miss any class, because even missing **1** class has an effect on your learning, and that's why you're here. I will do my best to make class time useful and valuable for you, including creating activities, lectures, etc. you will be able to replicate on your own. We've got limited time together, so we want to use that time together well and for our fullest spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth. So, if you miss class, you will, in fact, miss stuff. And more than what you're missing, **we** will miss **you**. Absences detract from the whole class experience not just for you but for everyone!
- It's possible you might get sick at least once this semester. You will most likely need a mental health day. And worse things could happen. So, there is a need for some flexibility. How much? **2** unexcused absences without penalty is generous. Also, **unless it is an emergency**, do not schedule doctor or any other appointments during class times. Unrelated class appointments should be made on your personal time.



How Many Classes Is Too Many Classes?

Yes, there is a point at which you'll have missed too many classes for me to say you've earned credit for the class. This isn't about whether you're a good person or not. And it's definitely not a value judgment. It's a judgment about what having this course on your transcript means. What is the point at which it won't make sense for you to get credit for this class? That's hard to say. And yet, if you miss more than 3 consecutive days, you should get in touch with me and let me know what's going on so we can make a plan and get you in the best possible shape to be able to pass the class.



How About Late Assignments?

Homework like discussion questions and other in real time things we need for the next class session will have a hard deadline. Here's why: submitting these kinds of assignments late won't be helpful to you as receiving feedback will be important for the next assignment. Hard deadlines are also true for things like rough drafts since workshops and getting feedback are part of the writing process and happen in real time. And lateness is definitely going to be hard to accommodate for debates and the midterm exam as well since there are carved out times in the semester for them. The final assignment should not be turned in late since you will have ample amount of time to complete it.

Final written exam date: there's very little wiggle room as I'm bound by deadlines at the institutional level.

Overall, getting a good handle on time management and figuring out how to prioritize readings and scheduled assignments in a timely manner are key to not getting behind and not losing sleep.

I get it, ADULTING IS HARD, but you got this!!

If you're having trouble, let's talk!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONOR CODE

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE HONOR CODE: All sections of the [Allegheny Honor Code](#) apply in this course (as presented in [The Compass](#)). The rules regarding unacknowledged assistance apply to all exams, papers, and other assignments. You will be sent to the Honor Committee if any sign of plagiarism emerges in any of your work, including formal or informal, written or oral, homework or exams. It is your responsibility as an Allegheny student to report any dishonesty you witness to the Honor Committee.

PLAGIARISM: You will be sent to the Honor Committee if any sign of plagiarism emerges in any of your work, including written, oral, homework, formal and informal writing, etc. Plagiarism is another word for cheating. When you plagiarize you directly or indirectly use the ideas and/or language of another person or persons without acknowledgment and claim these words and ideas as your own. You are plagiarizing if you do any or all of the following, though please keep in mind that these are not the only ways to plagiarize:

- 1) Using Chat GPT or any other AI language software to write your papers,
- 2) Use others' words directly without proper citation and quotations,
- 3) Use others' ideas and wording so closely (paraphrasing) that you are essentially quoting them without proper acknowledgment,
- 4) Re-use assignments not written for this class and pretend that they are written for this class,
- 5) Borrow, buy, steal, download (you get the idea) others' essays, ideas, words, language, etc. and pass them off as your own.

ACADEMIC ALERTS: Allegheny College uses an Academic Alert system to send progress notices to the class deans in the Maytum Center for Student Success (MCSS). **The progress notices are not punitive.** They are an opportunity to connect you with your class dean who can offer additional support and suggest resources if you need assistance. These notices may encourage faculty advisors, coaches (for student-athletes), or other support staff to provide outreach to you as well.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination status that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. “[The Office of Student Accessibility and Support Services \(SASS\)](#) at Allegheny College is dedicated to ensuring nondiscrimination and equal access to all programs, services, and activities for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities have access and opportunities to engage in the full range of experiences available to all students at Allegheny including curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities” (taken from the website). Please contact John Mangine, Senior Assistant Dean of Student Accessibility and Support Services at jmangine@allegheny.edu, 814-332-2898 for help with your accomodation.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE: If you need to miss class or reschedule a final examination due to a religious observance, please speak to the professor well in advance to make arrangements. Please see [the Religious Holy Days link](#) for more information.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

GATOR SUCCESS GRANTS: Sometime we have unexpected expenses –your glasses break, your computer stops loading, you have to take an emergency trip home due to illness or an emergency, you need money for books – Gator Success Grants are a quick and easy way to get some immediate funds in case you need them. They are not for regular and expected tuition, board or housing needs, but they are there for helping you bridge the gap just in case. There is a simple, on-line application. Here is [the link to the Gator Success Grants](#).

STATEMENT ON BASIC NEEDS: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and learn is urged to contact the [Dean of Students office](#) for support. And always remember that your tuition covers access to all the health, counseling, and academic support services on campus. If you feel comfortable doing so, please notify me so that I may provide or connect you to other resources.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A range of issues can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, health issues, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, lack of motivation or feeling ill. These concerns or other stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Allegheny College recognizes that mental health is an important piece of the holistic human experience, and that this experience influences your academic success. We encourage students to prioritize their mental well-being by seeking services and support as needed.

Keep in mind, course deadlines, absences, and accommodations for mental health are subject to the course policies and expectations that are set within this syllabus. Students are encouraged to communicate with their professors as soon as possible regarding their needs and seek support if their mental health impacts their academic performance or daily life. When you find yourself struggling emotionally, remember that there are supports available, and you are not alone.

If you should find yourself in difficult circumstances that significantly interfere with your ability to prepare for this class and to complete assignments, please inform me immediately so we can develop a plan. Please do not wait until the last day of class to ask for help.

If you need mental health support, you can access free, confidential services and resources in the [Counseling and Personal Development Center \(CPDC\)](#). CPDC delivers holistic mental health services to the Allegheny College student campus community through brief individual and group counseling, crisis support, outreach programming, consultation, and coordination of care. Students may request services by submitting a form on CPDC's website *Students may also connect with a mental health clinician at any time by calling Allegheny's 24/7 line: 814-332-2105.*

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, please call the 24/7 line, Public Safety (814-332-3357), or 911. *When in doubt, reach out.*

TITLE IX

ENGAGING TITLE IX: Allegheny College prohibits sexual misconduct. Under our college policies, I am considered a “Responsible Employee.” That means that I am trained to recognize issues of sexual misconduct and am required to pass on to the school’s [Title IX Coordinator](#) any instances that I see, hear about, or have reason to believe occurred. This includes things that you may share with me. This procedure is in place to ensure that Allegheny College provides a safe environment for everyone in our community and provides assistance, support, resources, and interim measures to anyone who has been subjected to inappropriate behaviors. I will **ALWAYS** be an advocate for you, but I want you to know that if you tell me something that happened to you or someone else, I can keep the information private but can’t promise confidentiality because of my duty to inform the Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to talk with someone who is able to keep the information you share **CONFIDENTIAL**, these are the people you can contact:

ON CAMPUS: [Counseling Center and Personal Development Center](#), [Winslow Health Center](#), [Office of Spiritual and Religious Life](#)

OFF CAMPUS: Meadville Medical Center Emergency Room 814- 333-5500
Meadville Crisis Line -814-324-2732 Women’s Services, Inc. –814-333-9766