LALS 80R: ORGANIZING ACROSS THE AMERICAS

Tues/Thurs 12-1:45 pm, Stevenson Academy 175  
Instructor: Sarah T. Romano  
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Office: Merrill 133  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30-4 pm & by appointment

Course Description:  
Why do people organize – or act collectively – to achieve shared goals? How do people do it? What effects does collective action have for the people participating and for the societies within which they live? This course will examine these questions through exploring diverse cases of collective action – both historical and contemporary – from Brazil, Bolivia, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and the United States. The first part of the course will introduce basic concepts and definitions associated with the study of collective action, drawing on the disciplines of political science, sociology, and economics. In the second part of the course, we will use films, texts and guest speakers to examine multiple forms of collective action: revolutions, social movements, rebellions, protests, as well as forms of “everyday” collective action. The third part of the course will present an in-depth case study of organizing in the United States. While this course highlights a range of complex issues around which struggles in the Americas have centered, students will find that the analytical frameworks learned will give them a language, concepts and investigative tools to study different kinds of social organizing across regions and issues.

Required Texts:  
2) Course Reader.

Both texts will be available for purchase at the Literary Guillotine, located at 204 Locust Street in downtown Santa Cruz (831-457-1195). The Muñoz book will also be on reserve at the library for the duration of the quarter.

Note: you will also be responsible for material contained in films, handouts and other supplements to the readings.

All articles and book chapters from the reader are also available via ecommons. To access ecommons:  
1) Go to http://ecommons.ucsc.edu.  
2) Create a password. See the sections entitled “How to use CruzID account…” and “Start up help for students” for assistance.  
3) Log in. Enter your CruzID Gold and your new password. Your CruzID is the first part of your UCSC e-mail address (your user name, typically your first initial and last name).  
4) Click on the “Resources” link to access the readings.

Course Requirements:  

1. Attendance and participation. (20%) Your attendance grade has the following components:  
   a. Attendance at lectures. Attendance at lectures is required. If you foresee having to miss a class during the quarter, please contact me in advance.
b. Participation in class discussions and activities. All reading assignments are to be completed before the class period for which they were assigned. You will be expected to participate and will do much better in the course if you come prepared to do so.

c. Submission of a discussion question relative to the readings assigned for that day by 10 am the day of class. You will submit your discussion question electronically via ecommons (see instructions above) as a “message.”

2. Quizzes. (20%) There will be periodic pop quizzes on the readings – up to 5 over the course of the quarter. Provided you’ve completed the reading assignments, these will be simple and straightforward. There are no make-ups.

3. Take-home midterm exam. (30%) You will have a written, take-home midterm exam half-way through the course.

4. Final exam. (30%) Your final exam will also be a written, take-home exam due during finals week. The final is cumulative, but will emphasize material from the second part of the course. Your exam is due by 3 pm to Merrill 133 on December 7th. Exams that come in after this time will receive a zero. No exceptions.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of academic integrity standards will be addressed in accordance with University policy. See http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/.

Citation styles: See this website for proper academic bibliographic references: http://library.ucsc.edu/help/howto/citations-and-style-guides. Be sure to be consistent with the form you choose.

Disability Resource Center: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact the DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or http://drc.ucsc.edu for more information on the requirements and/or process.

Other Class Policies and Expectations:
- Break: We will have one short break each class period.
- Laptops: If you prefer to take notes on your laptop, please sit towards the side of the classroom and near the front. Internet use is not permitted during class.
- Phones: These must be off – or silenced – during class.

PART I: UNDERSTANDING COLLECTIVE ACTION: WHY, HOW AND WHO?

**Thursday, 9/23** Course Introduction: What is collective action?

**Tuesday, 9/28** Concepts and Contexts: Framing collective action


Thursday, 9/30  

**Anatomy of a Protest: “The Battle of Seattle”**


*Guest Speaker:* David Solnit, direct action organizer, San Francisco Bay Area

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**PART II: CASE STUDIES: HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ORGANIZING IN THE AMERICAS**

**A. FROM THE COLD WAR TO THE PRESENT: COLLECTIVE ACTION IN NICARAGUA**

**Tuesday, 10/5  
Sandinista Revolution**


*In-Class Film:* “Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution” Parts I and II

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**Thursday, 10/7  
U.S.-Central America Solidarity Movement**


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**Tuesday, 10/12  
Community Organizing for Water**


*In-Class Film:* “Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution” (Parts III and IV)
Thursday, 10/14  Civil Society and the State


B. EXPLORING COLLECTIVE ACTION ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

Tuesday, 10/19  Landless Workers’ Movement, Brazil


Thursday, 10/21  Participatory Budgeting, Brazil


Tuesday, 10/26  Zapatista Rebellion, Chiapas, Mexico


In-Class Film: “The Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas.”

Guest speaker: Jonathan Fox, Professor, LALS

DUE: Take-home midterm

Thursday, 10/28  “Water Wars,” Cochabamba, Bolivia


**In-Class Video clip:** “The Big Sellout”

**Tuesday 11/2**

**The “Left Turn” and Social Movements, Bolivia**


**Thursday, 11/4**

**Political Parties and Social Movements, El Salvador**


**In-Class Film:** “Until the Last Drop” by Jason Wallach

**Guest speaker:** Jason Wallach, Media & Events Coordinator, Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco

**C. IN-DEPTH CASE STUDY: LATINO ORGANIZING, U.S.**

**Tuesday, 11/9**

**Chicano Student Movement (1960s)**


**In-Class Film:** “Walkout”

**Thursday, 11/11**

**Veterans Day – No Class**

**Tuesday, 11/16**

**Chicano Student Movement (cont.)**

Thursday, 11/18  Student Organizing for Education Rights


*Guest speaker: Laura Lopez, UCSC alumna and Dream Act organizer*

Tuesday, 11/23  Minutemen & Anti-Immigration Organizing


Thursday, 11/25  Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Tuesday, 11/30  Basta Dobbs: Campaign against CNN’s Lou Dobbs


*Guest speaker: Roberto Lovato, writer and political commentator*

Thursday, 12/2  Course Conclusion