

COMMUNITY POLITICS: Making Change in a Complex World

Course Code 60400/61520
Anthro 129/ ChicLat 159,
TuTh 2:00-3:20pm, SE2 1306

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:20-1:50

Course Description

This course introduces students to some current debates and “conversations” about social transformation. It also explores the practices, philosophies and theories of activism and social movements. Focusing mostly on the United States, the course will be run like a think tank for people interested in tackling difficult social problems. The problems can be wide ranging and do not need to be from a particular political perspective. In fact, this course will demonstrate new meanings of politics. Students will also have to explore more than one side of a problem as well as the role of themselves, as actors in and on the world.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class participation - 25% of grade. Students will be required to participate in class discussions and other class activities including brief presentations and written assignments. Attendance is required in order to participate. No electronics of any kind without a letter from the disability center.

Midterm writing project - 20% of grade. Students will select a topic related to the course readings and develop a three (3) page (double spaced) position statement in response to an issue that concerns them. They must draw upon at least two different non-assigned sources to write their short position paper (e.g. journal article, newspaper article, blog, video transcript, T.V. news story, website or other popular culture text). At least one page should be a presentation of the strongest and smartest opposition to your position.

Group book club presentations - 30% of grade. During weeks 9, 10, and Finals week, students will make presentations on two books. Presentations should address 4 key things. 1) What do the books argue, main points, approach to social transformation? 2) How do the books relate to each other? 3) How do the books relate to the Arriaga, Freire and Lynd? 4) What do the books teach us about your adopted issue? One person in your group can write a two paragraph annotation for each book in lieu of public presentation. If you choose an edited volume with many authors, you must at least read the Preface, Introduction and 3 chapters.

Final written response project - 25% Students will use their adopted issue and develop a four (4) page response (double spaced) with two pages devoted to how course readings have shaped your understanding of the issue, one page of oppositional analysis, and one page where you describe what set of actions might be to address the issue.

Course Policies

- **DROPS:** Must be submitted by 5PM of week 2 using the WebReg system. No late drops after week 2.
- **ADDS:** Must be submitted by 5PM of week 3 using the WebReg system. No late adds after week 3
- **CHANGE:** Must be submitted by 5PM of week 2 using the WebReg system. From week 3 through 6, you must use the Student Access system to submit a request for a grade option change. No late grade option changes after week 6.

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with me during the first week of class AND please register with the Disability Services Center (<http://www.disability.uci.edu/>). In order for you to receive any type of academic accommodation, I will need formal notification from the Disability Services Center during the first two weeks of the quarter of the type of academic accommodations to which your disability entitles you.

Academic dishonesty:

University policy and unfortunate experiences compel the following statement of principle: *Students who engage in plagiarism or cheating as defined by official university policy will automatically receive a ZERO as their grade on the assignment on which they plagiarized or the quiz or test on which they cheated. No exceptions. Other actions consistent with university policy may also be taken where deemed appropriate.*

Additional note on plagiarism: In all of your writing, you must identify the nature and extent of your intellectual indebtedness to the authors whose work you have read, or to anyone else from whom you have gotten ideas (classmates, etc.). Failure to acknowledge and properly attribute your reliance on someone else's ideas, thoughts, words, research, theories, evidence, findings, or argument is PLAGIARISM. Failing to provide page numbers for quotations or paraphrasing in a paper, or paraphrasing or summarizing the work of others without acknowledging the source in the text of your paper is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is wrong, unethical and dishonest.

If you have questions, please see the UCI Academic Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (http://www.senate.uci.edu/senateweb/default2.asp?active_page_id=754)

Please sign Electronic Academic Honesty forms.

Course Materials

Staughton Lynd (2012) *Accompanying: Pathways to Social Change* PM Press: Oakland

Manuel Arriaga (2014) *Rebooting Democracy: A citizen's guide to Reinventing Politics*. Thistle Publishing.

Course Website: <https://eee.uci.edu/15w/60400>

Contacting Professor Montoya

You may contact me by email but please ensure that your questions cannot be first answered by reading the syllabus or course website, attending class, or asking a classmate. Please also come see me in office hours for no reason at all. Discuss the course, readings, or anything else. There is a sign up sheet on my door.

Schedule of Readings

What is Community?

January 6, Class 1 Introductions and Course Overview
Oppositional Positions Part 1

Jan 8, Class 2

Lee Boggs, Grace. (2012) *The Next American Revolution*, Chapter 1.

Montoya, Michael J. *Speculative Futures for a Healthy City: Community, Knowledge, and Epistemological Hope for the Sciences of Life*. *Current Anthropology*, Special Issue -Life Sciences and the Rhetorics of Potentiality, October 2013.

Jan 13, Class 3

Horton, Miles, and Paolo Freire (1990) *We Make the Road* Chapter 3, and 5.

Discuss – Midterm, Book presentations, and Final Paper

What is Politics? Part I

Jan 15, Class 4

Manuel Arriaga (2014) *Rebooting Democracy*, Pages 1-38.

Jan 20, Class 5

Manuel Arriaga (2014) *Rebooting Democracy*, Pages 39-71.

Jan 22, Class 6

Manuel Arriaga (2014) *Rebooting Democracy*, Pages 72- 116

What is Politics? Part II

Jan 27, Class 7

Stoughton Lynd (2012) *Accompanying*, Pages 1-41.

Jan 29, Class 8

Stoughton Lynd (2012) *Accompanying*, Pages 43- 82.

Feb 3, Class 9

Staughton Lynd (2012) Accompanying, Pages 83-123.

Feb 5, Class 10

Staughton Lynd (2012) Accompanying, Pages 125 to end.

Feb 10, Class 11

Horton, Miles, and Paolo Freire (1990) We Make the Road Chapter 6

Discuss Midterms.

Feb 12, Class 12

No class. Midterm Projects Due – 4PM, Course Drop box.

Feb 17, Class 13

Guest, Dr. Connie McGuire

Reading coming soon

Feb 19, Class 14

Discuss Presentations

Oppositional Positions Part 2

Feb 24, Class 15

Lukes, Steven, (1986) Power. Introduction

Feb 26, Class 16

Fischman and Diaz (2013). Education without Redemption: Ten Reflections about the relevance of the Freirian Legacy.

Mar 3, Class 17

Presentations

Mar 5, Class 18

Presentations

Mar 10, Class 19

Presentations

Mar 12, Class 20

Presentations

Mar 19 Final 4-6 pm Presentations conclude, last class.

Final Paper DUE Friday, March 20, 2:30pm, in Course Drop Box.

Sources of interest for “Talk Back” segment of class.

http://www.pbs.org/mattersofrace/lm_programessays.shtml

<http://www.understandingrace.org/home.html>

Alternet, Huffington Post, Daily Kos

Youtube, News Channels: Fox, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, NYT, Local News