COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP/
COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP
URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 310/311
Fall 2011
Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:25 a.m.

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An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity
-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What This Course is About
"Organizing," writes author Si Kahn, "is people working together to get things done." This course focuses primarily on community organizing efforts by people working together to improve their neighborhoods and cities. Community organizing can focus on a wide variety of issues - housing, the environment, public safety, public health and health care, child care, jobs, poverty, discrimination, and many others. We will also focus on union organizing as a complement to community organizing.

The purpose of the course is to help prepare you to be effective leaders. Some of you may want to become professional organizers, but all of you are (and will continue to be) citizens in some community. If you want to be an effective, active citizen who can make a difference in your community, you will need to use the tools of leadership and organization-building.

The course examines the history of community organizing in the United States. It explores the different theories and approaches to effective grassroots organizing. It emphasizes the skills and techniques used to empower people so they can win victories and improve their communities.
**Course Requirements**
The course is intended to be a small, participatory seminar. Active student participation is critical to its success. The course involves five ways of learning:

1. We will read several books and a number of articles about organizing, including several case studies, and discuss them in class.
2. We will watch several films (including documentaries) and discuss them in class.
3. We will talk with several guest speakers who have experience as effective organizers.
4. We will participate in several hands-on exercises.
5. You will spend at least 12 hours a week working with a community organization in the L.A. area.

You should already have picked one of these groups to work with during the entire term. You will attend meetings and public events, work in the office, meet the staff and members, and undertake research that will help the organization achieve its goals.

**Grades**
Your grade will be based on four things:

1. Your participation in class. Students are expected to do the reading on time, participate in class discussions and exercises, and complete writing assignments on time.

2. Class Exercises. We have developed a series of exercises and assignments throughout the course that you are expected to participate in and, in the case of written exercises, turn in for credit. Completion of these will contribute to your participation in class. They are also key elements of your final paper (see below).

2. Your participation in a community organization internship. Students are expected to be responsible volunteers and complete the tasks assigned to you. Each student should keep a journal about their internship experiences. The journal will be handed in at the end of the term. To evaluate your internship, we will discuss your work with the supervisor and with you.

3. A short paper (15 -20 pages) describing and analyzing your internship and the organization you worked with. The paper should draw on the class materials (readings, films, speakers, exercises) as well as your experiences and your journal. This paper will draw on exercises and assignments throughout the semester explain what you learned about community organizing especially, and how well the organization met the criteria of effective organizing. Some guidelines for your journal and final paper are attached at the end. The paper is due on **Tuesday, December 6**. We won't accept any late papers.

**Required Readings**

Much of the course reading will be found in the books listed below. In addition, all readings with an asterisk (*) will be found on the Moodle site this course, which you get by first going to
“My Oxy” on the library webpage. We may occasionally add or switch readings if we think it is appropriate.

Students should also regularly bring to class articles from newspapers or magazines that relate to the topics discussed in the course.

You should purchase the following paperback books. They are on sale at the Bookstore.


Mary Beth Rogers, Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Politics

John Atlas, Seeds of Change: The Story of ACORN, America’s Most Controversial Anti-Poverty Community Organizing Group

Michael Lux, The Progressive Revolution: How the Best in America Came to Be

Gabriel Thompson, Calling all Radicals

**Recommended Readings**
The following paperback books are recommended for basic reference:

Kristin Szakos and Joe Szakos, We Make Change: Community Organizers Talk About What They Do And Why. You will enjoy this book, which has lots of great profiles of and stories about effective organizers working in different parts of the country, in different kinds of organizations, on different issues.

Robert Fisher, Let the People Decide: Neighborhood Organizing in America (2nd edition)
This is the best overview of the history of community organizing. It describes various efforts and strategies to organize communities and neighborhoods in this century.

Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals and Reveille for Radicals
Alinsky was the "father" of community organizing, starting in the 1940s. These two books are the "bibles" of organizing -- the lessons he learned from his decades as an organizer. They are both in paperback, easy to read, and full of great insights, most of which have stood the test of time.

Gregory Pierce, Activism That Makes Sense: Congregations and Community Organization
This book discusses the relationship between religious commitment and social activism and describes the role of religious faith in community organizing.

MoveOn.Org, 50 Ways to Love Your Country
This is MoveOn’s guide to political activism and the many ways Americans can be effective citizens.

Charlotte Ryan, *Prime Time Activism*
This book is a handbook for grassroots activists about dealing with the media.

Mark Warren, *Dry Bones Rattling*
This is a case study of effective community organizing around a variety of issues in Texas. It is also an analysis of how community organizing relates to the persistent crisis of American democracy -- inequalities of power, participation, and policymaking.

Rinku Sen, *Stir it Up: Lessons in Community Organizing and Advocacy* and Makani Themba, *Making Policy, Making Change: How Communities are Taking Law into Their Own Hands*. These two books document grassroots organizing campaigns that focus on media and policy advocacy; the Themba book focuses on public health issues. She includes a chapter case study on the Community Coalition’s organizing campaign to shut down liquor stores in South Los Angeles.

Joan Minieri and Paul Getsos, *Tools for Radical Democracy. How to Organize for Power in your Community*
This how-to manual includes: 1) In-depth analysis of how to launch and win a campaign; 2) Tools, worksheets and guidelines for training people to lead their own campaigns and organizations; 3) Insights for using technology effectively, building more powerful alliances, and engaging in the social justice movement.

**Lunchtime Discussions and Films**
In addition to speakers we’ve invited to our seminar, several prominent activists, policymakers, and thinkers will be speaking on campus for lunchtime discussions (11:30 am to 12:45 pm) with the class, immediately following the class. They are listed in the syllabus and at the end of the syllabus. These are all very busy people. Some may have to cancel or reschedule at the last minute, but we will alert you as soon as we know.

**Web Sites**
We hope that all of you will use the internet to connect to the larger worlds of public policy, advocacy, and organizing. There are thousands of web sites that deal with social issues and thousands of advocacy organizations and political networks that have their own web sites. Here are several key sites with which you should be familiar. We encourage you to bookmark them so you can find them easily.

**Community Organizing and Development** ([http://comm-org.wisc.edu](http://comm-org.wisc.edu)) -- This site is a link with hundreds of groups involved in urban community development. If you want to find out what groups are working on different urban issues, this is the site. It also has many articles and reports on urban community development and community organizing.
Organizing Upgrade (www.organizingupgrade.com) is a website developed by former organizers to facilitate strategic thinking on how to link community organizing to broader social justice movements rooted in communities.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (http://www.cnt.org), the National Housing Institute (www.nhi.org), the Metropolitan Initiative (http://www.cnt.org/mi/index.html), Planners Network (http://www.plannersnetwork.org), Civic Practices Network (http://www.cpn.org), and Citistates (http://www.citistates.com) all focus on innovative research and programs that strengthen urban neighborhoods and metropolitan areas. Each site has links to many other resources about particular issues, programs, cities, and metropolitan areas.

Campus Activism (http://www.campusactivism.org/index.php) is a good source of information about organizing efforts on college campuses around different issues. Campus Progress (http://www.campusprogress.org) is one of the most effective progressive student groups, with lots of resources and information on its website. The Workers Rights Consortium (http://www.workersrights.org) is a human rights group that monitors sweatshop conditions around the world and works with United Students Against Sweatshops (http://usas.org) to help student groups that seek a “sweatshop-free” campus. Another human rights group that deals with issues of child labor, women’s oppression, and sweatshops is the National Labor Committee (http://www.nlcn.org).

American Prospect (http://www.prospect.org), and The Nation (http://www.thenation.com). These are two of the most important magazines analyzing American politics from a progressive, grassroots perspective.

Demos - A Network for Ideas and Action (http://www.demos-usa.org/demos); Center for Responsive Politics (http://www.opensecrets.org); Public Campaign (http://www.publiccampaign.org); Good Jobs First (http://www.goodjobsfirst.org); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (http://www.cbpp.org); California Budget Project (http://www.cbp.org); Campaign for America’s Future (http://www.ourfuture.org) -- These think thanks all provide interesting policy ideas on such issues as tax policy, campaign finance, anti-poverty policy, economic development, citizen participation, housing and homelessness, voting rights, and others.
READINGS, FILMS, SPEAKERS, AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

The course will cover the following topics. Students should have reading (and viewing) assignments completed before the class discussion on the topic. Readings with an asterisk will found on the course Moodle website. We may distribute additional readings during the semester if they seem appropriate and important. (Note: NYT=New York Times; LAT=Los Angeles Times)

Before you begin your internship, you should read “Getting to Know the Placement Site” from the book The Successful Internship: Transformation and Empowerment in Experiential Learning by H. Frederick Sweitzer and Mary A. King (third edition, Thompson-Brooks/Cole Publishers, 2009). It will be available on the course Moodle website.

Part I. Framing the Course and the Foundations for Organizing

Thursday, September 1 -- Introduction
Milltown Role Play exercise.
Pass out Social Ties assignment

Tuesday, September 6 -- Why Organizing? Why Now?
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Introduction (Community Organizers as Democracy Builders)
*Piven, “Why We Need Acorn” (LAT, April 22, 2010)
*Katz, “What We Lost After We Won in 2008” (In These Times, November 10, 2010).
*Dreier, “This Economy is a Real Killer” (Huffington Post, March 10, 2009)
*Schor, “Enviro Groups Align With Unions in Fierce State Labor Battles” (NYT, Feb. 24, 2011)
*Dean, “Finding Budget Solutions, Not Scapegoats” (Truthout, March 10, 2011)
*Winerip, “Dream Act Advocate Turns Failure Into Hope” (NYT, February 20, 2011)

Thursday, September 8 -- What is Power?
Watch before class: Obama and Project Vote (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px1Ut433xPU) - six minutes
Read: Mary Beth Rogers, Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Politics (entire book)
Pass out Member/Leader Interview assignment (due September 29)
Thursday, September 8 -- Lunch Speaker: Larry Frank, Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles.

Tuesday, September 13 -- What is Top-Down Power? Individuals, Relationships, Institutions
* C. Wright Mills quote (from Mills, The Power Elite)
* Bobo, OSC, Ch. 27 (The Breakdown of the Real Economy)
* Steinbeck, “The Grapes of Wrath” (1939) – Chapter 5
* Cooper, "The Two Worlds of Los Angeles" (The Nation, August 21/28, 2000)
* Tobar, “Los Angeles Helps the Wealthy but Not the Little Guy” (LAT, August 12, 2011)
* Reich, “Unjust Spoils” (The Nation, July 19, 2010)
* Surowiecki, “Soak the Very Very Rich” (New Yorker, August 16, 2010)
* Parenti, “Wealth and Want in the U.S” and “Institutions and Ideologies” (from Democracy for the Few, 2011)
* Dreier, “The Vault Comes Out of the Shadows” (Boston Business Journal, October 10, 1983)
* Hames, “Connections Are Key to Valley’s Most Powerful Person: David Fleming” (San Fernando Valley Business Journal, December 10, 2007)
* Lichtblau, “Lobbying Imperils Overhaul of Student Loans” (NYT, Feb. 5, 2010)
* Eggen and Kindy, “Familiar Players in Health Bill Lobbying” (Washington Post, July 6, 2009)
* Confessore, “Obama Seeks to Win Back Wall Street Cash” (NYT, June 13, 2011)
* Dreier, “Mine Deaths Follow Weak Regulations” (National Catholic Reporter, Feb. 16, 2007)
* Shapiro, “Toxic Toys” (The Nation, November 5, 2007)
* Greenhouse, “Battle Lines Drawn Over Ergonomic Rules” (NYT, Nov. 18, 2000)
* Greenhouse, “Bush Plan to Avert Work Injuries Seeks Voluntary Steps By Industry” (NYT, April 6, 2002)

Thursday, September 15 -- What is Bottom-Up Power? Individuals, Relationships, Institutions
* Minieri and Getsos, “Powering Up” (from Minieri and Getsos, Tools for Radical Democracy)
* Bhargava, “Organizing Principles” (NYT, September 13, 2008)
* Greenhouse, "Thousands of Home Aids Strike, Seeking $3 Hourly Raise" (NYT, June 8, 2004)
* Rutten, “Treating People Like Garbage” (LAT, August 28, 2010)
* Meyerson, “The Shipping Point” (American Prospect, June 29, 2009)
* Sheth, Hardin and Bhagwat, “SLAC Claims Victory as Hunger Strike Comes to a Close” (Stanford Daily, April 23, 2007)
Tuesday, September 20 -- The Strength of Weak Ties
Social Ties assignment due: Bring to class a list of all your family’s (parents’ and grandparents’) organizational ties.
*Gladwell, Six Degrees of Lois Weisberg (New Yorker, January 11, 1999)
*Taj James and Marianne Manilow, “Movement Building and Deep Change: A Call to Mobilize Strong and Weak Ties” (Huffington Post, October 16, 2010)
*Kretzman, “Building Communities From the Inside Out” (Shelterforce, Sept./Oct. 1995)

Tuesday night, September 20 -- Dinner and Film: “The Organizer”
*Background notes about “The Organizer”

Thursday, September 22 -- What’s the Difference Between Organizing, Advocacy, and Service?
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 2 (Fundamentals of Direct Action Organizing)
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Chapter 1 (Please Remove Your Hat Before We Evict You) and Chapter 2 (A Word of Enthusiasm)
*McKnight, "Services are Bad for People: You’re Either a Citizen or a Client (Organizing, Spring/Summer 1991)."
*Axel-Lute, “Direct Action for Housing” (Shelterforce, July/August 2002)
*Traynor, "Community Development & Community Organizing" (Shelterforce, March/April 1993)
*Clavel, “Progressive Planning Leader: Pat Rosenthal and Common Wealth Inc. of Youngstown, Ohio” (Progressive Planning, Summer 2010)
*Rose, “Struggling in the Crescent City” (Shelterforce, Fall 2007)
*Hertsgaard, “Green Grows Grassroots” (The Nation, July 31, 2006)
*The Hungry Person Exercise

Part II. Organizing for Power

Tuesday, September 27 - Movements for Justice
Frederick Douglass quote (Bobo, Organizing for Social Change, first page)
Lux, The Progressive Revolution (entire book)
Organizing Timeline (distributed in class)

Tuesday, September 27 Lunch film: “The Democratic Promise”
Read these articles/chapters as background for the film:
* Dahle, Social Justice - Ernesto Cortes Jr. (Fast Company, November 1999)

Thursday, September 29 - The Organizing Tradition: Alinsky and His Legacy
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Chapter 7 (History is Power: Why Organizers Should Study Dead People)
* Remnick, “Black Metropolis” (from The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama, 2010)
* Rourke, “Her Calling: To Help Others Find a Voice” (LAT, August 12, 2002)
* Watanabe, “Shortage of Skilled Workers Looms in U.S” (LAT, April 21, 2008)
* Cardenas, “Building a Power Base for Better Education” (LAT, May 13, 2002)
* Faussert, “Thousands Attend Parley to Improve Life in County” (LAT, July 12, 2004)
* Swarts, “In Praise of Faith-Based Community Organizing” (Shelterforce, Fall 2008)
* Malanga, “The Religious Left, Reborn” (City Journal, Autumn 2007)
* Dreier and May, “Progressive Jews Organize” (The Nation, September 13, 2007)

Monday, October 3: “Capitalism: A Love Story” (Weingart 117, 7 pm)
You are required to see this film and write a 2 page Reflection Paper
Pass out assignment for reflection paper on “Capitalism: A Love Story”

Tuesday, October 4: Organizing, Elections, and Politics: The Inside/Outside Dilemma
Watch this 8-minute video from Bill Moyers’ show before this class session:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFlXpoA-MQY
* Dolan, "Environmental Activists Adapt to Insider Role" (LAT, March 23, 1993)
* Kaufman, “Disillusioned Environmentalists Turn on Obama as Compromiser” (NYT, July 11, 2009)
* Harder, “A Stalled Movement” (National Journal, April 20, 2011)
* Brune, “Fading Green” (LAT, July 11, 2011)
* Greenhouse, “Democrats Drop Key Part of Bill to Assist Unions” (NYT, July 17, 2009)
* Piven, “Obama Needs a Protest Movement” (The Nation, November 13, 2008)
**“A Lover of Fairy Tales Casts Obama as Villain-in-Chief” (August 8, 2011)
* Teixeria, “Obama’s Unhealthy Obsession with Independents” (New Republic, August 2, 2011)
*Dreier, et al., "Movement Mayor: Can Antonio Villaraigosa Change LA?" (Dissent, Summer 2006)
*Walljasper, "Burlington, Northern Light" (The Nation, May 19, 1997)
*Kirsch, “What Progressives Did Right to Win Health Care” (The Nation, August 9, 2010)
Recommended: Watch the film “Wellstone,” available on reserve in the library

**Tuesday, October 4 – Lunch Speakers:** Gloria Walton, Executive Director, SCOPE; Sabrina Smith, California Calls.

**Thursday, October 6— The Tea Party and American Conservativism**

*Reflection paper on “Capitalism: A Love Story” due in class.*

Watch: Glenn Beck, “Obama and Saul Alinsky”
http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=JCBMF1NU (4 minutes)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dOUULxBhzw (7 minutes)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG5jmRkBB4g (4 minutes)

Watch: Keith Olbermann, “Special Comment On Shirley Sherrod Controversy” (MSNBC, July 21, 2010) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c18nWuygOQ


*Sabert, "From Moral Majority to Organized Minority: Tactics of the Religious Right" (Christian Century, August 11-18, 1993)


*Vogel, “The Right Loves to Hate – And Imitate – Saul Alinsky” (Politico, March 22, 2010)

*Lacy, “Taking Their Fight On Illegal Immigrants to the Arizona Border” (NYT, August 16, 2010)

*Dreier, “Health Care and Hate in Alhambra” (Huffington Post, August 14, 2009)

*Gordon. “EPA Doles-Out Taxpayer Dollars to Environmentalist Activist Groups” (Energy and Environment, May 19, 2011)


*Henig, “Grover Norquist: You Can’t Break the Pledge” (New Yorker, July 24, 2011)

*Williamson, Skocpol, and Coggin, “The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism” (Perspectives on Politics, March 2011)

*Corn, “Confessions of a Tea Party Casualty” (Mother Jones, August 2010)

*Nocera, “The Tea Party’s War on America” (NYT, August 1, 2011)

**Thursday, October 6 -- Lunch film: “The Rise of the New Right”**

**Monday, October 10: Cleve Jones, gay rights activist/HERE organizer, 11:30 am (Thorne Hall)**
Tuesday, October 11 — What Makes a Good Issue?

Exercise: Picking an Issue
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 1 (Introduction) and Ch. 3 (Choosing an Issue)
*Mozingo, "Residents Want Action After Fatal Accident on Figueroa" (LAT, Oct. 18, 1998)
*Lopez, "Fewer Fire Inspections Conducted in Inner City" (LAT, Oct. 8, 1993)
*Tobar, "Housing Laws No Cure for Slums' Ills" (LAT, July 20, 1997)
*Rivera, "Staples Center's Displaced Have New Homes and New Worries" (LAT, Oct. 9, 1999)
*Fuller and Beltran, “The Invisible Cyclists of Los Angeles” (Progressive Planning, Summer 2010)
*McGreevy, “Question of Race Profiling Unanswered” (LAT, July 12, 2006)
*Greenhouse, “Among Janitors, Labor Violations Go with the Job” (NYT, July 13, 2005)
*Greenhouse, “Hotel Rooms Get Plusher, Adding to Maids’ Injuries” (NYT, April 21, 2006)
*Greenhouse, "Controversial Overtime Rules Take Effect" (NYT, August 23, 2004)
*Barringer, “California Air is Clearer, But Troubles Remain” (NYT, Aug 3, 2005)
*Peterson, “US Data Reveal Loan Rate Disparity” (LAT, Sept. 14, 2005)
*Streitfeld, “Foreclosures in State Hit Record High” (LAT, July 25, 2007)
*Freedman, “Poor Selection” (Wall Street Journal, December 20, 1990)

Thursday – October 13 -- Case Study: Living Wages and Accountable Development

Preliminary Organizational Assessment due

*Dreier, “Good Jobs, Healthy Cities” (American Prospect, October 2009)
*Greenhouse, “Maryland Is First State to Require Living Wage” (NYT, May 9, 2007)
*Newton, “Madeline Janis: Labor's Pensive Warrior” (LAT, June 17, 2007)
*Janis, “Special Attention Paid to ‘Special Interests’” (LA Business Journal, August 9, 2010)
*Mathews and Helfand, “Airport Hotels Ordered to Pay a ‘Living Wage’” (LAT, Nov. 16, 2006)
*Dumon, “A 'Living Wage' is Money in the Bank: A Hotel Owner Urges His Fellow LAX-area Hoteliers to Stop Fighting the City's Living-Wage Ordinance” (LAT, June 11, 2008).
*Fine, “LAX Hotel Agrees to Union Contract” (LA Business Journal, April 13, 2009)
*Weikel, “Los Angeles City Council weighs bumping up 'living wage' for LAX workers” (LAT, May 13, 2009)
Pass out Strategy Chart Exercise

Thursday – October 13 – Lunch Speaker: Madeline Janis, LAANE

Fall Break – Monday, October 17 - Tuesday, October 18

Thursday, October 20: Thinking Strategically: How Do We Organize Effective Campaigns?
Strategy Chart Exercise due
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 4 (Developing a Strategy), Ch. 5 (A Guide to Tactics), Ch. 7 (Meetings to Pressure Officials), Ch. 8 (Holding Accountability Sessions)
*Lassen and Adamson, "Erasing the Red Line" (From CTWO manual)
*Cleeland, “Farm Workers Urge Davis to Sign Binding Arbitration Bill” (LAT, August 11, 2002)
*Jones, “History Echoes As Farm Workers Rally for Bill” (LAT, Aug. 26, 2002)
*Hirsch, “Ahmanson Ranch Protestors Turn Up the Heat on Sizzler Chairman” (LAT, Jan. 1, 2003)

Part III. Finding Leaders and Building Organizations

Tuesday, October 25 – How Do Organizers Find and Develop Leaders and Get (and Keep) People Engaged?
Organizing Role Play Exercise
Prior to class, listen to this KPCC radio interview with Humberto Sanchez:
http://www.lavoicepico.org/Site/Meet_Humberto.html
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 10 (Recruiting)
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Chapter 3 (A Word of Caution)
*Ballenger, "Why People Join" (Community Jobs, April 1981)
Pass out “Media/Power Analysis” exercise

Tuesday, October 25 - Dinner film: “Norma Rae”
*Background notes on “Norma Rae”

Thursday, October 27 – What Do Effective Leaders Do?
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 6 (Organizing Models) and Ch. 11 (Developing Leadership)
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Chapter 4 (The Wisdom of Ella Baker)
*"Exodus: Chapter 18" (Bible)
*Alinsky, "Native Leadership" (from Reveille for Radicals)
*Freeman, "The Tyranny of Structurelessness" (Berkeley Journal of Sociology, 1970)
*Cesar Chavez, "The Organizer's Tale" (Ramparts, July 1966)
*Jarrat, "The Forgotten Heroes of the Montgomery Bus Boycott" (Chicago Tribune, Dec.1975)
*Dreier, ”Rosa Parks: Angry, Not Tired” (Dissent, Winter 2006)
*White, "Fall From Grace" (City Limits, August/September 1994)
*Leland, "Savior of the Streets" (Newsweek, June 1, 1998)
*Reagon, "Songs that Moved the Movement" (Civil Rights Quarterly, Summer 1983)
*Hoerr, "Solidaristas at Harvard: Organizing in a Different Voice" (American Prospect, Summer 1993)
””Types of Leaders. Types of Volunteers” (from Obama 08 training manual)

**Tuesday, November 1 – Immigrant Rights and Organizing – Connecting Local and Global**


* Cave, “A Generation Gap Over Immigration” (NYT, May 27, 2010)
* Barboza, “In Chinese Factories, Lost Fingers and Low Pay” (NYT, January 5, 2008)
* Dreier and Appelbaum, “The Campus Anti-Sweatshop Movement” (American Prospect, Sept. 1999)
* Greenhouse, “Labor Fight Ends in Win for Students” (NYT, November 17, 2009)
* Greenhouse, “Nike Agrees to Help Laid-Off Workers in Honduras” (NYT, July 26, 2010)

**Tuesday, November 1 -- Lunch Film: “One Day Longer”**

Read these two articles as background for the film:
* Mosle, "How the Maids Fought Back" (New Yorker, Feb. 26 and March 4, 1996)
* Barabak, “He Helps Give Labor the Edge” (LAT, July 12, 2007)

**Thursday, November 3 – The Media, Research, and Organizing**

Power analysis/media assignment due
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 7 (Tactical Investigations) and Ch. 14 (Using the Media)
Thompson, Calling All Radicals, Chapter 5 (Got a Problem? Prove It!) and Chapter 6 (Demystifying the Media)
* Hazen, “The Right-Wing Express” (AlterNet, February 7, 2005)
*Kate Sheppard. “The Koch Brothers’ Vast Right-Wing Media Conspiracy” (Mother Jones, February 4, 2011)
*”Media Malpractice on Debt Ceiling: Five ways media misreported deficit debate” (FAIR, August 2011)
*Cleeland, “Why I’m Leaving the Los Angeles Times” (Huffington Post, May 28, 2007)
*Witt, "We Rarely See Those Who Labor" (Baltimore Sun, Aug. 22, 1999)
*”Are You on the Nightline Guest List?” (FAIR, February 6, 1989)
*”Media/Political Bias” (Rhetorica)
*Candaele, ”Teamsters Go For Public's Heart" (LAT, Aug. 17, 1997)
*”Model press advisory and model press release” (from Fighting Toxics)
*”Organizing a Media Event”
*Rappaport, “Report: Tesco won't live up to hype; Grocery chain prepares to enter SoCal market" (Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, Aug. 3, 2007)
*Dreier, "Rent-a-Politician Exposed" (Shelterforce, 1981)
*Seelye, "Lobbyists Are the Loudest in the Health Care Debate" (NYT, Aug. 16, 1994)
*Obstetler and Kazis, "Corporate Campaigns" (from Cohen and O'Connor, Fighting Toxics)
*Crowther, "How to Research Companies" (from College Placement Council)
* Oldham “On The Front Lines Of Search For Toxic Sites” (LAT, September 7, 2008)

**Thursday, November 3** Lunch Speaker: Lunch Speaker: Lydia Avila (Oxy/UEP '05), Inner City Struggle

**Tuesday, November 8:** Case Study: ACORN
Atlas, Seeds of Change (entire book)
*Dreier and Martin, “How ACORN Was Framed: Political Controversy and Media Agenda-Setting” (Perspectives on Politics, Fall 2010) – skim to get the basic idea

**Wednesday, November 9 – 7 p.m. John Atlas. Place: TBD**

**Thursday, November 10 -- Case Study: Housing Organizing in LA (combine two sections)**
Bobo, OSC, Ch. 9 (Building and Joining Coalitions), Ch. 17 (Working with Religious Organizations)
Watch this video about LA Voice: [http://www.lavoicepico.org/Site/About_Us.html](http://www.lavoicepico.org/Site/About_Us.html)
*Wu, “Los Angeles Coalition Wins Health Clinic and Jobs from Developer” (Race, Poverty & the Environment, 2011)
*Dreier and Pitcoff, "I'm a Tenant and I Vote" (Shelterforce, July/August 1997)
*Breidenbach, “LA Story” (Shelterforce, March/April 2002)
*Lopez, “Another Employee’s Butchered Benefits” (LAT, June 27, 2007)
*Hale, “Activists Protest Projects’ Lack of Low-Income Units” (LAT, Feb. 18, 2001)
*Hymon, “Activists Press Council for Affordable Housing Law” (LAT, June 5, 2005)
Part IV: Unions and Coalitions

**Tuesday, November 15 --- Unions: How Can the Labor Movement Be a Powerful Force for Social Justice?**

“What Have Unions Ever Done For Us?” [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE_c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE_c)  
(Watch this 2-minute video, an Australian TV ad, before this class session)  

Bobo, OSC, Ch. 19 (Building Labor-Community Partnerships)  

*“Unions: Facts and Figures”* (Economic Policy Institute, 2007)  
*Greenhouse, “The State of the Unions”* (from The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker, 2008)  

*Selvin, “A Worker for Janitors, Guards”* (LAT, June 3, 2007)  
*Loomis, “8 Union Victories Progressives Should Be Watching--And Learning From”* (Alternet, August 10, 2011)  

*Amber, “CNA/NNOC, Tenet Reach Agreement for Organizing Hospitals Outside California”*  
(Bureau of National Affairs, August 21, 2007)  


**Tuesday, November 15 -- Lunch Speaker: John Grant, United Food and Commercial Workers**

Read these articles to prepare for John Grant’s presentation:  
Thursday, November 17 -- Case Study: the LA Clean and Safe Ports Campaign

Video: Port Truckers Campaign

* Yehle, “Neighborhood Gags as Its Economic Engine Spews Pollution” (NYT, July 5, 2011)
* Spivak, “The Battle of the Ports” (Planning, May/June 2011)
* Bensman, “Stuck on the Low Road” (American Prospect, October 2009)
* Samuel, “A Good Working Environment” (American Prospect, February 27, 2009)
* Saharan and White, “Port Drivers Steer Toward Clean-Truck Program” (LAT, June 6, 2007)
* Matsuoka, “Clean and Safe Ports: Building a Movement, Region by Region” (Race, Poverty & Environment, Fall 2008)
* Hanson, “Suit alleges trucking company denied workers wages, expenses” (Long Beach Press Telegram, Oct. 5, 2009)
* Zahniser, “Trucking Group to Appeal Port Ruling” (LAT, August 28, 2010)

Thursday, November 17 – Lunch Speakers: Patricia Castellanos (LAANE) and Greg Good (LAANE/Don’t Waste LA)

Thursday, November 17 – Eric Schlosser, author of Fast Food Nation, 7 pm (all-campus talk)

Tuesday, November 22 – What Are the Strengths and Weaknesses of Coalitions?

Bobo, OSC, Ch. 9 (Building and Joining Coalitions), Ch. 20 (Working with Religious Organizations)
* Fine, "An Organizer's Checklist for Coalition Building" (from Brecher/Costello, Building Bridges)
* Shearer, "How the Progressives Won in Santa Monica" (Social Policy, Winter 1982)
* Kelleher and Talbott, "The People Shall Rule" (Shelterforce, Nov./December 2000)
* Simmons, "Labor and the LEAP: Political Coalitions in Conn." (Working USA, Summer 2000)

Role-Playing Exercise on Coalitions

Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving - No Class

Part V: America’s Future: Can Progressive Organizing Build an Effective Movement for Social Justice?

Tuesday, November 29 - Organizing to Scale: What it Will Take to Win at the National Level?
* "Strategic Reset: Movements React to Midterm Losses” (The Nation, Dec. 20, 2010)
Thursday, December 1 -- Case Study: The Campaign for Marriage Equality

*Friedman, “The Real Stonewall Legacy” (American Prospect, June 26, 2009)
*Cusac, “Harry Hay Interview” (The Progressive, September 1999)
*Peters, “Why There’s No King or Steinem for the Gay Movement” (NYT, June 21, 2009)
*Wright, “A Fragile Union” (Colorlines, March/April 2009)
*Shin, “Show me the money! The geography of contributions to California’s Proposition 8” (California Center for Population Research, UCLA. June 2009)
*Beach-Ferrara, “Why We Lost in California: An Analysis of the ‘No on 8’ Field Strategies” (Democratic Strategist, on line)
*Stolberg, “Obama Invites Gay Rights Advocates to White House” (NYT, June 22, 2009)
*Dreier, “Gay Marriage: The Tide Is Turning and There’s No Going Back” (Huffington Post, August 6, 2010)
*Barbaro, “Behind N.Y. Gay Marriage, an Unlikely Mix of Forces” (NYT, June 25, 2011)

Thursday, December 1 – Lunch Speaker: Rick Jacobs, Courage Campaign

Tuesday, December 6 – The Near and the Far: What Are We Organizing For?

Final paper due
*Dean, “The Fight for a Progressive America Begins Today - and Does Not End in 2012” (Truthout, August 4, 2011)
*Reynolds, "Social Citizenship: Lessons from Sweden" (from Taking the High Road, Ch. 1)
*Dreier, "The U.S. in Comparative Perspective" (Contexts, Summer 2007)
*Halpin and Teixeira, “Progressivism Goes Mainstream” (American Prospect, April 20, 2009)
*Kuttner, “My Private Obama” (Huffington Post, July 4, 2010)
*Alterman, “No Bounce for Obama” (The Daily Beast, July 17, 2010)
*Beinart, “Obama’s Unbelievable Winning Streak” (The Daily Beast, June 28, 2010)
*Beinart, “Why Obama Disappoints the Left” (The Daily Beast, July 2, 2010)
*Judis, “The Quiet Revolution” (New Republic, February 1, 2010)
*Liu and Hanauer, “Patriotic Values and Politics: Ten Principle Plan” (The True Patriot, 2007)
*Leyden, Teixeria, and Greenberg, “The Progressive Politics of the Millennial Generation” (New Politics Institute, June 20, 2009)

**Dates for Speakers and Films**

Thursday, Sept 8: Larry Frank, Deputy Mayor, City of LA  
Tuesday, Sept 20: “The Organizer” (dinner)  
Tuesday, Sept 27: “Democratic Promise (lunch)  
Thursday, Sept 29: Sister Maribeth Larkin, One LA (lunch)  
Monday, Oct 3: “Capitalism: A Love Story” (7 pm, Weingart 117)  
Tuesday, Oct 4: Gloria Walton, SCOPE, and Sabrina Smith, California Calls (lunch)  
Thursday, Oct 6: “The Rise of the New Right” (lunch)  
Monday, Oct 10: Cleve Jones, gay rights activist/HERE organizer (CSP speaker, 11:30 am)  
Thursday, Oct 13: Madeline Janis, LAANE  
Tuesday, Oct 25: “Norma Rae” (dinner)  
Tuesday, Nov 1: “One Day Longer” (lunch)  
Thursday, Nov 3: Lydia Avila (Oxy ’05), Inner City Struggle (lunch)  
Wed., Nov 9: John Atlas, National Housing Institute, campus talk, 7 pm  
Tuesday, Nov 15: John Grant, United Food and Commercial Workers union (lunch)  
Thurs., Nov 17: Patricia Castellanos and Greg Good, LAANE  
Thurs., Nov 17: Eric Schlosser, author of Fast Food Nation, 7 pm (all-campus talk)  
Thursday, Dec 1: Rick Jacobs, Courage Campaign

**Writing Assignments**

Thursday, Sept. 1: Pass out “Social Ties” assignment  
Thursday, Sept. 8: Pass out “Member/Leader interview” assignment  
Thursday, Sept. 15: Pass out “Preliminary Organizational Assessment” assignment  
Thursday, Sept. 15: Pass out “Media/Power Analysis” assignment (group project)  
Tuesday, Sept. 20: “Social Ties” assignment due  
Thursday, Sept. 29: “Member/Leader interview” assignment due  
Thursday, Oct. 6: Reflection paper on “Capitalism: A Love Story” due  
Thursday, Oct. 6: Pass out “Picking an Issue” assignment  
Tuesday, Oct. 11: “Picking an Issue” assignment due  
Thursday, Oct. 13: “Preliminary Organizational Assessment” assignment due  
Thursday, Oct. 13: Pass out “Strategy Chart Exercise” assignment  
Thursday, Oct. 20: “Strategy Chart Exercise” assignment due  
Thursday, November 3: “Media/Power Analysis” assignment due  
Tuesday, December 6: Final paper due
Final Paper

Each student in this course is required to write a short paper (15 pages) describing and analyzing your internship and the organization you worked with. The paper should draw on the class materials (readings, films, speakers, exercises) as well as your experiences and your journal. The paper should explain what you learned about community organizing, especially, what are the key elements of effective community organizing and how well the organization met these criteria. Two exercises/research projects will help you write your final paper.

1. **Keep a journal.** As part of this course, you should keep a journal. Your journal should record your internship activities. You should take notes on your observations and impressions about the people, the organization, the community, and issues you are dealing with. You should record your own activities -- including the highlights and problems.

2. Interview a community member/leader within your internship organization. (Due Sept. 29)

3. **A preliminary organizational assessment.** (Due October 13) This includes.
   a. Annual budget of the organization for each of the past three years. In cases where you might be interning with a union local of a chapter/local office of a statewide organization, you may have to determine local and higher level budgets.
   b. % of budget devoted to community organizing
   c. Number of full-time and part-time staffpersons in the whole organization
   d. Number of full-time and part-time staffpersons with responsibility for community organizing and advocacy
   Sources of funding for the organization for each of the past three years, including dues, foundations, fundraisers, other. List the foundations.
   e. List the issues that the community organizing staff have worked on in the past three years
   f. Describe the group’s key organizing campaigns over the past three years, using a narrative version of the Midwest Academy’s strategy chart. Who were the key constituencies, targets, allies, strategies, tactics? List the outcomes of their community organizing campaigns -- victories, defeats, stalemates.
   g. If you organization has a board of directors, list the names of the people on the board of the organization.
   h. Profile the board of directors in terms of the following categories: (1) community residents, (2) staff, (3) funders and/or business, (4) allies, (5) attorneys, (6) other
   i. Provide a one-page summary of the organization’s history, including the date of its founding, its evolution over time, any significant changes in its mission or structure

3. **Final Journal**

The reflective information from your journal as well as the organizational information you
research for your mid-term paper will inform your final paper. Your final paper should aim to be objective. That means you should view the organization from a variety of angles and perspectives -- not simply the perspective of your supervisor. You should look organization from the perspective of the staff, the board, constituents, allies, targets, and others. Then you can come to your own conclusion based on having an "outsider's" view of the organization.

In order to write this paper, in other words, you will need to talk to people besides your intern supervisor. Your analysis of the organization's strengths and weaknesses should be based on the criteria we have discussed and read about in class. To help you think about these issues, we will put on the course website a chapter called “Getting to Know the Placement Site” from the book The Successful Internship: Transformation and Empowerment in Experiential Learning by H. Frederick Sweitzer and Mary A. King (third edition, Thompson-Brooks/Cole Publishers, 2009). Please read this chapter before you begin your internship.

The final paper should include an evaluation of the organization and of your internship. Topics should include (but aren't limited to) the following:

- The history of the organization. How it was started and by whom? Why was it started? How and why it has changed since its beginning? What are the organization's missions and goals?

- How is the organization organized? Discuss its budget, staff, board, and sources of funds. Who runs the organization? How does the way it is organized reflected its missions and goals? How does the way it is funded influence what it does?

- How does the organization decide what issues to get involved with? What is the group's overall strategy? How does it decide on strategy and tactics?

- What is the organization's constituency? How does it determine what its constituency is?

- How does the organization deals with such matters as leadership, recruiting and maintaining members, maintaining morale, fundraising, research, and the media?

- What impact does involvement in the organization have on the people -- staff, leaders, members?

- Discuss how your internship fit into the organization's overall activities. Discuss the specific role(s) you played in the organization. Evaluate the pros and cons of your internship.

Discuss the overall strengths and weaknesses of the organization. Be sure to clarify what criteria you are using.

8/29/2011