Organic Social Movements
University of California, San Diego
Ethnic Studies 117- Winter 2007

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This class explores “organic” social movements among indigenous and ethnic communities. A primary purpose here is to acknowledge and emphasize communities that are subject to social, political and economic forces in local settings and global arenas which illustrate native resistance and the formation of indigenous leadership. Borrowing from Antonio Gramsci’s notion of the “organic intellectual” the premise of the course is that all communities and groups of individuals produce natural leaders who not only interact with repressive forces but utilize existing social processes, political structure, and native resources in planned and organized resistance. We will explore four primary examples that illustrate such resistance and mobilization aimed at social-cultural and political-economic change. This includes: two Chicano/a communities in San Diego (Lemon Grove and Logan Heights); the Kuna Indians of the Comarca of San Blas, Panama; Pacific Islanders of Micronesia, and the Zapatistas of Southern Mexico. Of crucial importance here is both understanding the historical forces that created the conditions for people to act, as well as the social-cultural foundations/traditions people utilize in fighting repression and claiming rights.

Class Requirements
Students are required to attend lectures and complete all readings by the assigned dates. Each student will write a research paper (8-10 pages) on a specific social movement or theme that is central to the course. An optional book review essay (6-8 Pages) may be submitted for extra credit. All topics must be approved. There will be two quizzes, a midterm exam and a final exam. All requirements must be completed in order to pass the course. For the final grade, these requirements are weighed as follows:
A. Class participation 5%
B. Quiz performance 15%
C. Midterm Exam 25%
D. Final Exam 30%
E. Research Paper 25%

Lecture, Reading and Exam Schedule
January
9 Introduction and Overview: Organic and Indigenous Knowledge
11 Social Movements Defined
   Readings: Nash “Social Movements” in Reader;
   Flores and Benmayor, 1-26
16 Local Movements in San Diego: Lemon Grove
   Readings: Alvarez in Reader; Rosaldo (Chapter 1) in Flores and Benmayor
18 The Lemon Grove Incident (film)
23 Local Social Movement in San Diego: Chicano Park
   Readings: Delgado in Reader
25 Social Movements and Change-
   Readings: Flores and Benmayor: Chapters 4, 6, and 7
Micronesia: Colonial and post colonial expressions  
Readings: Lutz- Introduction; Alexander; Peterson; Marksbury

**February**

1 Micronesia  
Readings- Lutz: Marshall and Marshall; Rubenstein; Vitarelli  
6 Film: Half Life  
Readings: Alcalay in Lutz; Wilson in Reader  
8 **MIDTERM EXAM**

13 Environmental issues and indigenous concerns: The Kuna of San Blas  
Readings: Howe in Reader  
15 Sustainability, Ecology  
Readings: Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna, (all)  
20 The Spirit of Kuna Yala- Film  
Reading: Chapin (PEMASKY) in Reader  
22 Globalism and Local Change: Food, Power and Change  
Reading: TBA  
27 The Ejercito Zapatista de Liberacion Nacional (EZLN)  
Reading: Collier (Basta) – 1-106;

**March**

1 Zapatismo/ The Sixth Sun—Film  
6 Globalism and Advocacy Networks  
Reading: Collier: 183-216; Nash (Press Reports) in Reader  
8 Popular Culture and Resistance  
Reading: TBA  
13 Current Social Movements  
Reading: Grimes (Free Trade) in Reader—Keck and Sikkink in Reader  
15 Overview and Summary

**Required Texts:**

Collier, George  
Flores, William and Rina Benmayor  
1998 Latino Cultural Citizenship Boston: Beacon 
Lutz, Katherine  
Ventocilla, Jorge, Heraclio Herrera and Velerio Nuñez  
1995 Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna. Austin: University of Texas

**Recommended Texts:**

Howe, James  
Katzenberger, Elaine  
1995 First World Ha Ha Ha! The Zapatista Challenge. City Lights: San Francisco
Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink  

Nash, June  

Ponce de Leon, Juanita ed.  

Salvador, Mari Lyn ed.  

Wilson, Lynn,  
1995 *Speaking to Power* London: Routledge

**Required Readings in ES 117 Reader:**

Alvarez, Robert  “The Lemon Grove Incident: The Nations First Successful Desegregation Court Case.”  

Chapin, Mac “Defending Kuna Yala: The Proyecto de Estudio para el Manejo de las Areas Silvesres de Kuna Yala (PEMASKY).”  Unpublished MS. 1997


Grimes, Kimberly M. “Changing the Rules of Trade with Global Partnerships: the Fair Trade Movement.”  


Note: The readings, lecture themes and assignments of this syllabus may be changed by the instructor.

**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

You may be closer to a major, minor or a double major in Ethnic Studies than you realize. An Ethnic Studies major or minor is excellent preparation for a career in education, public policy, law, government and politics, journalism, public health, international relations, and many other careers. Please contact the Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor for more information.