

Academic Unit / Office Mexican American Studies

Catalog Year of Implementation 2017-2018

Course (Prefix / Number) MAS / 3345 **Course Title** Latino Leadership, Activism, & Organizing

Core Proposal Request

- Add course to Core Curriculum
- Revise course already in Core Curriculum

	Current Core Categorization <small>(Fill out this column completely)</small>	Proposed Changes to Categorization <small>(For this column, only fill out the fields being REVISED)</small>
Foundational Component Area (must select one)	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	Language, Philosophy & Culture
Component Area Option (optional)	N/A (No Component Area Option)	Writing in the Disciplines
Category Listing: Single or Double?	N/A (Not currently a Core course)	List under Component Area Option ONLY.

Core Proposal Rationale

Providing leadership to the Mexican American working-class community with the objective of empowering its members is not an easy thing to accomplish. Only through the personal responsibility of individuals and the collective effort of a community can this be accomplished. The course will provide examples of this and will challenge students to reflect on their own levels of commitment to providing future leadership to this type of effort. In addition, the students will cover how important communication is important in these types of efforts. How to go about communicating and organizing with a community can be tricky as community members have been promised many things in the past by elected officials who have not come through. Part of being an effective organizer and leader is critical thinking. Learning how to think, particularly in community struggles when the opposition is formidable is a necessity. The course will demonstrate this through its material, films, and class lectures.

Core Objectives

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

Critical Thinking

Students will write an 8 page research paper over a community organization or campaign where they will demonstrate critical thinking.

Communication:

In the research paper above, students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively.

Social Responsibility:

In the research paper above, students will describe the relationship between social responsibility and communicating successfully with others.

Personal Responsibility:

In the research paper above, students will describe how their learning has enhanced their understanding of their personal responsibilities for communicating successfully with others.

When submitting this form, please remember to attach a syllabus, learning objectives, and/or sample lesson(s).

**LATINO LEADERSHIP ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING
MAS 3345**

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course will examine the Latino community experience in its struggle for meaningful social change in the US. It will examine various theories of social change to explore how Latinas and Latinos have developed collective, organized responses to social, political and economic inequities facing their communities. The course will analyze different Latino social movements, strategies and community organizing models used by them to challenge injustices. The course will review the ideologies, values beliefs, ideas, actions and leaders/activists of specific organizations in the farmworker, labor, women's, immigrant, civil and human rights movements in historical and current contexts. The class will provide an understanding of the components required to build community power in order to achieve social change through collective organizing and action. When appropriate, students will be asked to attend meetings and events of community organizations involved in organizing for social change to get a first-hand look at these efforts.

STUDENT GRADING

Class participation	10%
15 minute oral presentation (The presentation will be on a Latino Organization or related campaign)	20
Research paper on field experience (Over a community organization or Campaign)	35
Final exam related to film: Salt of the Earth	35
	100%

READINGS

The reading material for the class will come from the internet and from class handouts. No book is required.

Please note that the dates provided below reflect a course taught in the past

I.

Classes: 8/26, 8/28, 9/2, 9/4

What is community organizing?

Search websites:

Midwest Academy for Organizing

www.midwestacademy.org

Center for Third World Organizing

www.ctwo.org

DART Center

www.thedartcenter.org

What is "community"?

- "Mapping the Community," Bridge Project: Building a Race and Immigrant Dialogue in the Global Economy. Groups defining community through a collective mural project – One's individual experience.
- **"Community Analysis: What is it?" REACT web site. University of Minnesota.**
www.epi.umn.edu/react/main/community_org/community_analysis.htm
- Houston Area Survey
www.houstonareasurvey.org

Models of Community Organizing: An Overview

Go to COMM-ORG Resources at <http://comm-org.wisc.edu>. Click History Archives. Find and read: "A Way of Thinking About the History of Community Organizing" by Stephen Valocchi.

Go to COMM-ORG Papers. Click See the papers. Find and read: _

- **2006 Papers Cheryl Honey, "Community Organizing, Past, Present and Future"**
- **2002 Papers Peter Szyuka, "Three Alinskis."**
- **1997 Papers Francis Calpotura and Kim Fellner, "The Square Pegs Find Their Groove."**
- **1996 Papers Randy Stoecker & Susan Stall, "Community Organizing or Organizing Community? Gender and the Crafts of Empowerment."**

See the Spunk Library web site at: <http://www.spunk.org> Find and read Tom Knoche, "Organizing Communities."

II.

Classes: 9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/18

Brief History of Community Organizing

www.comm-org.wisc.edu

The Historical Development of Community Organizing

www.trincoll.edu/depts/tcn/valocchi.htm

History of Community Organizing in Latino Community

- Occupied America by Rudy Acuña (Reference).
- "History Timeline," Bridge Project: Building a Race and Immigrant Dialogue in the Global Economy.
- Presentation by Co-author Francisco Arguelles.
- Video: "Viva La Causa: 500 Years of Chicano History."
- "A Union in the Community," by Cesar Chavez. Handout.

History of Social Movements in the Latino Community: A Working Definition

"Social Movement," Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Reference)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_movement

111.

Classes: 9/23, 9/25, 9/30,

Identifying Organizing Models in Latino Communities.

- Guest: Alberto Luera, co-founder of the Mexican American Youth Organization, la Raza Unida Party, Centro Aztlan in Laredo and the Water Cooperative in El Cenizo. "The Chicano Experience and Lessons Learned for Contemporary Organizing and Activism."
- Alinsky-style organizing
- "Latino Catholics and the American Public Life"
www.trincoll.edu/depts/csrpl/Charitable%20Choice%20book/Matovina.pdf
- Identity Organizing
- "A Look into the Triangle's Latino Organizations" by Darian Zabia.
www.duke.edu/web/latstudies/ZubiaFind/pdf

- Cultural Organizing

“Cultural Organizing: A Conversation of the Intersection”

http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2006/08/cultural_organizing.php

- Cyber-organizing

“The Zapatistas and the Electronic Fabric of Struggle” by Harry Cleaver.

www.eco.utexas.edu/faculty/Cleaver/zaps.html

IV.

Classes: 10/2, 10/7, 10/9

Identifying Social Movements in Latino Communities.

- **“Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Racial Coalition Building: Connecting Histories, Constructing Identities and Building Alliances,” by Sue Sohng and Melissa Chung.**
<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/paper2005/sohng.htm>

- Farmworker Movement

- Sin Fronteras Organizing Project

www.farmworkers.org/sfentran.html

- Environmental Movement

- National Hispanic Environmental Council

www.nheec.org

- Women’s Movement

- List of feminist Latina organizations

www.lasculturas.com/lib/libFeminism.php-7k

- Civil/Human Rights Movement

“Voices from the New Civil Rights Movement,” by Roberto Lovato, The Nation, June 1, 2006

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/36996/>

Video: Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride 2003

V.

Classes: 10/14, 10/16, 10/21

The experiences in community organizing/social movements.

Class presentations of selected Latino community organizing experiences. Individual example to present to class. Mid-term grade.

Examples:

National Council de la Raza
www.nclr.org

LULAC
www.lulac.org

National Day Laborers Organizing Network
www.ndlon.org

Enlaces America
www.enlacesamerica.org

South West Organizing Project
www.swop.net

Fuerza Unida
www.lafuerzaunida.org

Coalición Derechos Humanos / Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras
www.derechoshumanosaz.net

PODER
www.poder-texas.org

ASOCIACION TEPEYAC
www.tepeyac.org

Industrial Areas Foundation
www.iaf.org

ACORN
www.acorn.org

Others that are not listed here, but that you know of.

IV.

Classes: 10/23, 10/28, 10/30

The experience of Latino Transnational Community Organizing.

- “The Development of Hometown Associations in the United States and the Use of Social Remittances in Mexico,” by Rafael Alarcon, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.
www.thedialogue.org/publications/alarcon.pdf
- **NALACC Promotes "A Transnational Vision--Rooted in Community"**
www.enlacesamerica.org
- “New Organizing Strategies and Transnational Networks of Guatemalans and Salvadorans in Los Angeles,” by Nora Hamilton in Research and Seminars.
http://migration.ucdavis.edu/rs/move.php?id=46_0_3_0
- Video: PBS The Sixth Section.

The Link to International Struggles.

- México Solidarity Network
- www.mexicosolidarity.org
- World Social Forum & Border Social Forum
- www.forosocialmundial.org.ue/Ingles/-11k
- Issues of Peace and Democracy
- “Four Influential Latino Peace Activists Will Lead a 241 mile Quest for Peace,” New Orleans Voices for Peace.
- [www.neworleansvfp.org/node/1780-27k - Sept. 11,2006](http://www.neworleansvfp.org/node/1780-27k-Sept.11,2006)
- Guest: Jesus Lopez Tapia, Delegate to the Institute of Mexicans Abroad and Journalist, “The Political Participation of Mexican Immigrants in the Construction of Democracy in Mexico.”

VI.

Classes: 11/6, 11/11, 11/13

Diagnosing and Framing the Communities Problems

Power Analysis in Organizing Communities

Designing Campaigns for Social Change

- “Migrant Rights are Human Rights,” Bridge Project: Building a Race and Immigrant Dialogue in the Global Economy. A Popular Education Exercise.

- ***“A Six-Step Development Framework to Build Successful Alliances, Coalitions and Partnerships,”*** by Joan Roberts. <http://comm-org.wisc.edu/paper2005/roberts>
- Film: Salt of the Earth

VI.

Classes: 11/18, 11/20, 11/25

Informal vs. Legally Registered Organizations

Organizing the Community: Developing Local Leaders

Building Community Capacity: Networks and Social Capital

Building Democratic Participation in Community Organizing

- ***“The Education and Liberation of the Poor in Community Organizing: The Personal Growth and Transformation of Leaders in the Anti-Displacement Project,”*** by Lindsey P. Walker-Estrada.
<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers2004/walker.htm>
- ***“Technical Assistance and Progressive Organizations for Change in Communities of Color: A Report to the Saguaro Grantmaking Board of the Funding Exchange,”*** by Luz Guerra:
<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers99/guerra.htm>

VII.

Classes: 12/2, 12/4

Popular Education Methodology and Capacity Building

Fundraising for grassroots groups

Media Training

- Highlander Research and Educational Center
www.highlandercenter.org
- ***“Promoting Practices in Revenue Generation for Community Organizing”*** by Sandy O’Donnell, Jane Beckett and Jean Rudd.
<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/papers2005/beckett.htm>
- ***“Strategic Communications Planning—Download as PDF,”*** by Spin Project
<http://www.spinproject.org/downloads/StrategicCommunications.pdf>

VIII.

Due: Final Exam Day.

Research Paper on Field Experience in Community Organizing/Activism.

The following is a brief sketch and outline for assisting in analyzing the community organizing experience that you are going to report on.

See "**Analyzing and Evaluating an Organizing Strategy**" at http://www.cpcs.umb.edu/support/studentssupport/red_book/analyz_org_strat.htm.

IX. Final Exam Tuesday, December 16, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Special Reading: View movie: "Salt of the Earth". A questionnaire will be handed out for you to answer key questions on how this Latino experience for social change can be analyzed from the perspective of community organizing, activism and social movement-building. This questionnaire is the final exam.

You should turn in your paper analyzing an organization, movement, campaign or direct action at the final.