Core Curriculum Supplement

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

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 ACTIVISIM 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 20
(The presentation will be on a Latino Organization or related campaign)

Research paper on field experience 35
(Over a community organization or Campaign)

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”?


- 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 Cherryl Honey, “Community Organizing, Past, Present and Future”

- 2002 Papers Peter Szynka, “Three Alinskis.”


- 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/tn/valocchi.htm

History of Community Organizing in Latino Community

- Occupied America by Rudy Acuña (Reference).
- 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)

111.

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

Identifying Organizing Models in Latino Communities.


- Alinsky-style organizing

- “Latino Catholics and the American Public Life”

- 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_organiz.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.

• 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.

- *NALACC Promotes "A Transnational Vision--Rooted in Community"* www.enlacesamerica.org
- 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
- 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

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


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](http://www.highlandercenter.org)


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.


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.