



## SYLLABUS

**Nonprofits and Social Change in Argentina**

**Instructor: Dyana Mason**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**UO Credits: 4**

**Contact Hours: 40**

**Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities: 60**

**Rosario, Argentina**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The guiding questions of this course are: What is the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs, the international term for nonprofit organizations) leading social movement in Argentina? What is the shape of social movements in South America? How do these organizations emerge and evolve over time? What are some of the leading questions facing social movements and social movement organizations?

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**Instructional Goals.** The course will:

- \*Provide an historical and theoretical overview and theories of NGOs and social movements.
- \*Conduct a comparative analysis of social movement organizations active in Latin America and the rest of the world.
- \*Explore the reasons why people engage in social movement activism in the United States and around the world.
- \*Provide an opportunity to study current political and social events with a view to social change, organization theories and the organizations engaged in the work.

**Student Outcomes.** Students who successfully complete this course will:

- \*Meet with current activists and leaders working for social and political change.
- \*Critically analyze current events relating to social change movements and organizations.
- \*Closely analyze one organization currently involved in social change or the global civil society.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

This course will be held primarily in lecture format during our four week stay in Rosario, Argentina. There will also be occasional field trips to organizations in social change and social movements in Rosario and Buenos Aires, Argentina where we will meet directly with leaders engaged in the work.

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

The method of assessment should correctly correspond to the level of the course, as outlined above.

Grades for the course will be comprised of the following elements:

### **Follow a social movement (40%)**

Over the course of the term, students will follow a specific social movement in South America or anywhere else in the world and write short assignments online analyzing the movement they are following based on that week's readings. Each assignment will be approximately 500-75 words. Movements might include the LGBT movement in Argentina, the Democracy movement in Hong Kong, the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. The only criteria is that it needs to be a movement that is currently operating with events and activities. (10% each week)

### **Presentation on A Movement (10%)**

In week 4, you will present a 15-20 minute presentation on the social movement you've been following over the course of the term through at least one of the analytical (theoretical) frameworks we've been discussing.

### **Final Exam (30%)**

At the end of the term, students take a final exam.

### **Participation (20%)**

This will cover attendance for the term (10%), as well as your participation in class discussions and field trips (10%).

### **Textbook:**

- **Della Porta, Donatella and Mario Diani (2006). "Social Movements: An Introduction". Malden, MA: Blackwell.**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Orientation Week: (Arrival, Buenos Aires and Orientation)**

Visits to ESMA – [Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos](#)

Visits with 2-3 Civil Society And/Or Social Movement Groups

Attend Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo weekly event in Plaza de Mayo, Buenos Aires

Read:

- Navarro, Marysa (2001). *The Personal is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo*, in *Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements*, ed Susan Eckstein. Berkeley: University of California Press (pages 241-258).

### **Week 1: The Nonprofit Sector and Its Role in Social Change**

During the first week we will lay the groundwork on how nonprofits are (or are not) involved in social movements in the United States and Around the World.

Day 1: Introduction, class overview. The nonprofit sector in the United States and around the world

Day 2: The nonprofit sector in Argentina

Day 3: Defining Social Movements

Day 4: How nonprofit organizations engage in advocacy and social movements

Readings:

- Della Porta and Diani Chapter 1 (The Study of Social Movements, page 1-32)
- Anheier, Helmut (2015) *Nonprofit Organizations: Theory, Management, Policy*: London: Routledge. chapters 4 (“Dimensions” pages 99-128) and 17 (“International aspects and globalization”, page 457-492)

## **Week 2: Theories of Social Change and Social Movements – Collective Action and the Disturbance Theory**

This week, we will seek to answer the questions: Why do people form social movements and social movement for change?

Day 1: The “Disturbance Theory”

Day 2-3: Collective Action and Social Movements

Day 4: Social movements in Latin America

Readings:

- Della Porta and Diani chapter 3-5 (page 64-133)
- Armstrong, E. A., & Bernstein, M. (2008). Culture, power, and institutions: A multi-institutional politics approach to social movements. *Sociological theory*, 26(1), 74-99.
- Motta, Sara C. (2014) “Latin America: Reinventing Revolutions, an “Other” Politics in Practice and Theory

## **Week 3: Social Movements and Organizations**

This week we will discuss the different types of social movement organizations, how they work together in coalitions and what “protest” means and how it is implemented.

Day 1: Social movements in organizations

Day 2: Social movement coalitions

Day 3-4: Social movements and protest

Readings:

- Della Porta and Diana chapters 6-7 (pages 135-192)
- Alcaniz, Isabella and Melissa Scheier (2008). “New Social Movements with Old Party Politics: The MTL Piqueteros and the Community Party in Argentina” in *Latin American Social Movements in the Twenty-First Century: Resistance, Power and Democracy*, ed by Richard Stahler-Sholk, Harry E. Vanden and Glen David Kuecker. Lanham, Maryland: Littlefield, pages 271-286.

#### **Week 4: Social Movements, the State and Transnational Partners**

In week 3, we will discuss the ways that social movements are often in conflict with “the state” (government) and wrap up the term! Students will also be providing their presentations this week.

Day 1: Social Movements and the State

Day 2: Social Movements and Democracy

Day 3: Transnational Social Movements

Day 4: Final Exam

#### **Readings:**

- Della Porta and Diana Chapters 8-9 (pages 193-249)
- Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. (1998). *Activists Beyond Borders*: Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press (Chapters 1 “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics”, pages 1-38 and chapter 3 “Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America” p. 79-120)