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PSC 595.01: Cultures in Conflict - Political Changes in the Americas

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Political Science/Anthropology 595
Cultures in Conflict: Political Changes in the Americas
Team Taught by Professors Paul Haber and Janet Finn
Spring 1998

Overview: This graduate seminar critically examines social movements in the Americas from political, cultural and historical perspectives. The politics of social movements are addressed in the context of transnational capitalism, with particular attention given to the predominance of a neoliberal economic model throughout the Americas. A combination of case studies and theoretical analyses will be used in developing a critical understanding of the common ground and important differences among social movements in South, Central and North America. The seminar will address: the definition and political implications of social movements; criteria for evaluating the impacts of diverse forms of social participation; the politics of poverty and inequality in transnational context; questions of agency, subjectivity and identity; the cultural politics of gender, class, race, and nation in social change efforts; and current strategies for cross border organizing efforts on this complicated social and political terrain.

Course Expectations and Assignments: The success of this seminar depends on members' careful attention to the readings and active participation in weekly discussions. An internet discussion group will be set up to facilitate ongoing conversations about issues raised in the readings and the seminar. Participation in the internet discussion is optional.

Critical Review Essay (Due Feb. 25): Each participant will write a brief (about five page), essay critically reflecting on a theme raised in the course readings to date. This essay may provide the basis for your research paper, or it may offer the opportunity for more in depth engagement with particular topics or theoretical perspectives introduced in the readings.

Seminar Facilitation: Each class member will take responsibility for facilitating discussion during one seminar meeting over the course of the semester. A discussion outline is to be submitted to the instructors at least one day prior to the assigned class meeting.

Research Paper (Due May 13): Each class member will complete an independent research paper/project addressing an aspect of political change in the Americas. A one page proposal is due March 11. In lieu of a final exam, our finals week meeting will be a time for informal presentations on and discussions of the individual projects.

Course Readings (Some of the course texts are on library reserve as noted)

Books:

Agger, Ben (1998) *Critical Social Theories: An Introduction*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Escobar, Arturo (1995) *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (On reserve)

Korten, David (1995) *When Corporations Rule the World*. West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press (On reserve)

Hayek, Frederick. (1962) *The Road to Serfdom*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Friedman, M and Friedman, R. (1980) *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement*. New York: Penguin. (On reserve)

Castaneda, Jorge. (1993) *Utopia Unarmed*. New York: Vintage Books. (On reserve)

Jelin, E. and Hersberg. (1996) *Constructing Democracy*. Boulder: Westview Press. (On reserve)

Alvarez, S., Dagnino, E. and Escobar, A. (1998) *Cultures of Politics and Politics of Cultures: Revisioning Latin American Social Movements*. Boulder: Westview Press. (Available 2/98)

Levine, Daniel (1993). *Constructing Culture and Power in Latin America*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (Excerpts only, will be placed on reserve)

Guzman Bouvard, Marguerite. (1993). *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources

Articles and Chapters: The following are available on 2 hour reserve at Mansfield Library

Lowe, L. and Lloyd, D. (Eds.) (1997) *The Politics of Culture in the Shadow of Capital*. Durham: Duke University Press. (Select chapters)

Escobar, A. and Alvarez, S. (Eds.) (1992) *The Making of Social Movements in Latin America: Identity, Strategy and Democracy*. Boulder: Westview Press. (Select chapters)

Rouse, Roger (1995). "Thinking Through Transnationalism: Notes on the Cultural Politics of Class Relations in the Contemporary United States. *Public Culture* 7: 353-402.

Broad, Dave (1995). "Globalization and the Casual Labor Problem: History and Prospects. *Social Justice* 22: 67-91.

Green, Linda (1994). "Fear as a Way of Life." *Cultural Anthropology* 9:227-256

Nash, June (1994) "Global Integration and Subsistence Insecurity. *American Anthropologist*, 96: 7-30.

Coronil, Fernando (1996) "Beyond Occidentalism: Toward Nonimperial Geohistorical Categories. *Cultural Anthropology*. 11: 51-87.

Armbruster, Ralph (1995) "Cross-National Labor Organizing Strategies." *Critical Sociology*, 21: 75-90.

Conklin, Beth (1997). "Body Paint, Feathers and VCRS: Aesthetics and Authenticity in Amazonian Activism." *American Ethnologist* 24: 711-737.

Hale, Charles (1994) "Between Che Guevara and the Pachamama: Mestizos, Indians and Identity Politics in the Anti-Quincentenary Campaign." *Critique of Anthropology* 14: 9-39.

Starn, Orin (1995) "To Revolt against the Revolution: War and Resistance in Peru's Andes," *Cultural Anthropology* 10: 547-580.

There are also three folders, entitled Neoliberalism I, II, and III. Each contains a collection of readings.

There are also a two folders pertaining to Mexico and Chile, entitled Mexico Readings and Chile Readings. Each contains a collection of articles.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Reading Assignments: Note, reading assignments are subject to change and new items may be added as our discussions evolve over the course of the semester.

Jan 28: Introduction and Overview.

Feb 4: Setting the Theoretical Stage. Discuss Agger (1997) and Conklin (1997)

Feb 11: Encountering Development. Discuss Escobar (1995) and Coronil (1996)

Feb 18: Cultural and Political Implications of Corporate Transnationalism. Discuss Korten (1995) and Rouse (1995)

Feb 25: Road to Serfdom. Discuss Hayek (1962) and Neoliberalism Readings I (on reserve)

Mar. 4: Free to Choose: Discuss Friedman (1980) and Neoliberalism Readings II (on reserve)

Mar 11: Whither Utopia. Discuss Castaneda (1993) and Neoliberalism Readings III (on reserve)

Mar 18: Spring Break

Mar 25: (Re)constructing Democracy: Discuss Jelin and Hersberg (1996) and Green (1994)

Apr 1: Cultures of Politics. Discuss Alvarez et al (1998) and Hale (1994)

Apr 8: And Politics of Cultures: Alvarez et al (1998) cont. and Starn (1995)

Apr 15: Gender and Social Movements. Guzman Bouvard (1993) and Nash (1994)

Apr 22: Case Studies: Mexico and Chile. Mexico Readings and Chile Readings (on reserve)

The Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies will hold a conference here in Missoula on April 23, 24, and 25. The conference location is the Double Tree Hotel, 100 Madison. There is a cost to attend the conference. Information will be forthcoming about ways to reduce or eliminate these costs for seminar participants.

Apr 29: Social Movements: Problems and Possibilities: Broad (1995) and Armbruster (1995)

May 6: Reflections on the journey and where we go from here. Readings TBA

May 13: Americas Potluck Dinner and presentation of final papers (informal presentations and discussion but firm deadline for papers)