

Contemporary Social Movements: Bolivia

Course Description -- Fall 2014

Team Taught by Gray Cox and Juan Tellez

Meeting Place and Times: Library Seminar Room, M 8:00-9:30 am, Th 6:30-8:00 pm or beyond, and other times by prior arrangement

Office Hours: Th 2-4:00 in Gray's office on the second floor of Davis and by appointment (and/or skype)

Social struggles for human rights, indigenous community autonomy, ecological sustainability, equality, sovereignty and other concerns invoke values, draw on methods and appeal to allies from the larger international context and yet play out with their own very distinctive dynamics at community, regional and national levels. When social movements achieve political power that enables them to use the state in advancing their goals, these dynamics become even more complex.

An especially rich and important case study of these complex dynamics is provided by the struggles leading up to the election of Bolivia's first indigenous president, Evo Morales, and the subsequent efforts to establish a pluri-national state in which rights of Nature ("Pacha Mama") and of indigenous communities are embedded in a vision of sustainability as "Vivir Bien" (living well as opposed to living "ever better" with more GDP).

The goals of this course are to introduce students to the history and current dynamics of Bolivia, seen as a case study of social change, with the aim to: a.) develop understanding of development issues as applied to Bolivia's current context; b.) develop abilities to use theories of social change to interpret and critically analyze cases like Bolivia, and c.) to develop their skills in research to generate useful knowledge for activists and change agents.

The class format will include readings, discussion, visiting lectures from other COA faculty, short analytical papers, and term long projects in which students will define and pursue research on a specific topic such as the struggles over issues related to water, food, climate change, coca production or indigenous culture. Students will also organize poster presentations as part of the October session of the Society for Human Ecology in which a session on the concept of Vivir Bien in Andean countries is being organized.

Readings will include shorter excerpts from texts in general theories of social change by Charles Tilly, Bill Moyer, Paulo Freire and others and extensive readings related to Bolivia's geography, culture, history, economy and politics. Also, a text on research methods that draws on the tradition of Popular Education and Pedagogy of the Oppressed with Paulo Freire will be used to explore strategies and tactics for research. It is *THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL ACTION* by Howard Richards.

For the fall of 2014 this course is recommended for students preparing to go to the climate change conference in Lima in the fall of 2014 as well as students planning travel to Bolivia in the winter. Some summer reading will be assigned as preparation for the course. HS, M, lab fee of \$35, enrollment limited to 18, permission of the instructor is required.

Evaluation will be based on the extent to which student work in discussion, in papers, presentations, and other activities provide evidence of achieving the three goals

for the course. For students who take the course for a letter grade, the relative weighting will be:

- Class participation and homework (25%)
- Poster Presentation for SHE Conference (15%)
- Book and/or article review presented in class, including 3-4 page précis (15%)
- Works in progress report on individual or small group project (15%)
- Final written report and in class presentation on project (30%)

For the final project that you work on through the term, if you are planning on going to Bolivia in the winter, the project might well take the form of a works in progress report on a research plan you intend to pursue further there. In that case it should include both a preliminary analysis of the themes you want to investigate, drawing on readings and other research you do in the fall AND a methodological analysis of how you plan to pursue the research in the winter. This methodological analysis should include plans for how you will gather data, evidence and/or experience, how you will go about interpreting it and engaging in critical analysis of it, and how you will draw on and collaborate with other people in pursuing the investigation and then sharing its results.

Juan Tellez will be participating on campus during weeks 2-4 and leading classes then. Extra sessions will be scheduled during that time to make maximum use of his presence. He will also be available to work with students individually then on their projects. Later in the term he will participate via skype and collaborate with individuals as possible.

Readings and materials will be available on the (Portal as well as the??) Lore site at: <http://lore.com> The code for entry is: **BEN3BA** It is listed as the course: Contemporary Social Movements: Bolivia.

Also, there are a great many works available on the Library reserve shelf in the Periodical Room. These can be consulted for projects and can also be used for the reports that students will do during weeks 7-9 with their critical analyses. There are also a variety of works (both in English and Spanish) available online. Part of the task of the class will be to collaborate in sharing information about such works and sharing critical assessments of their contents, methods, and usefulness. NOTE: The official language of the class will be English so as to allow all to take part in conversations but the use of Spanish resources is strongly encouraged and the use of Spanish for conversation in small groups to the extent it is workable and contributes to the learning process is also encouraged.

There is also a series of films from or about Bolivia that will be put on reserve and can be viewed by individuals but that we might also, in at least some cases, view as a group on Thursday evenings after 8:00 pm. They include, among others, TAMBIEN LA LLUVIA, QUIEN MATO A LA LLAMITA BLANCA?, EL ESTADO DE LAS COSAS. Also, available from Netflix, is COCALERO, a documentary on the election of Evo Morales.

NOTE REGARDING MIDTERM REVIEW: It is expected that as student interests and projects get clarified in the first half of the term, we may want to revise the plan for weeks 7-10 to better serve those interests and projects. These revisions could include, for instance, further reading in philosophical texts such as Boaventura de Sousa Santos EPISTEMOLOGIES OF THE SOUTH or Enrique Dussel's PHILOSOPHY OF

LIBERATION, works in theories of social change such as Raúl Zibechi's TERRITORIES IN RESISTANCE: A CARTOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, or one or more works by Bolivian authors in philosophy, history or social theory. The revisions could also, for instance, include having visitors come to talk about Bolivia and economics, anthropology, geology or other topics.

Course Outline

9/11 Introductions, Syllabus review, opening discussion of interests and initial organizing for individual and group projects

9/15 history of social movements viewed from the North – readings from Charles Tilly and Lesley J. Wood, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS 1768-2008 2ND EDITION, chapters 1-37, 65-122.

Homework assignment: Type up and bring to class a bullet list of points of comparison and contrast between the social conditions and social change processes in Britain and America in the late 1700's at the time of the emergence of what Tilly calls "social movements", other more recent related cases Tilly deals with, and Bolivia in our current period. We will use these lists to begin to develop some analysis of the cases and some theoretical reflections.

WEDNESDAY 9/15 EXTRA MEETING with visiting activist Lidy Nacpil, Asian Regional Coordinatory for Jubilee South,

<http://jubileesouth.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>

<http://www.fdc.ph>

9/18 Readings from John Crabtree and Ann Chaplin's BOLIVIA: PROCESSES OF CHANGE (pp. 1- 35) and selections from Gene Sharp's WAGING NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE, and Bill Moyer's DOING DEMOCRACY

9/22 Los flujos historicos de Bolivia: colonialismo e identidad cultural – Historical Currents of Bolivia: Colonialism and Cultural Identity

9/25 La formación del capital y el movimiento popular en Bolivia – The Formation of Capital and the Popular Movement in Bolivia

Sunday 9/28 NOTE: EXTRA SESSION --Itinerario de los conceptos del desarrollo en el contexto de Bolivia – Itinerary of the Concepts of Development in the Bolivian Context

9/29 Vivir Bien: una alternativa al vivir mejor y al mito del desarrollo – Living Well: An alternative to living better and the myth of development

10/2 Principios y conceptos indígenas del Vivir Bien – Indigenous Principles and Concepts of Living Well

Sunday 10/5 NOTE: EXTRA SESSION Coyuntura actual de Bolivia: gobierno, estructura social y política – The Current Situation of Bolivia: government, social structure and politics

- 10/6 Utopia y esperanza: el camino para construir el Vivir Bien – Utopia and Hope: The path towards constructing Living Well
- 10/9 Student project presentations
- 10/12 NOTE: EXTRA SESSION – David Hartsough, activist, visiting speaker
- 10/13 Las elecciones de Octubre y los caminos a seguir – the October elections and the paths to follow Elections Debrief – Skype Session with Juan Tellez
- 10/16 Mid-term review and refinement and revision of plans for remainder fo the term
- Discussion of draft posters for SHE
- 10/20 Discussion of Draft Poster presentations for SHE
- 10/23 NOTE: The Thursday evening session will be replaced with participation in the Society for Human Ecology Conference – including student organized poster session on Vivir Bien (October 22-25 at College of the Atlantic)
- 10/27 Readings connected to projects with critical analyses and ongoing project reports and/or visiting professor or speaker -- TBA
- 10/30 Readings connected to projects with critical analyses and ongoing project reports – TBA
- and THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL ACTION, pp. 1-78
- 11/3 Readings connected to projects with critical analyses and ongoing project reports and/or visiting professor or speaker -- TBA
- 11/6 Readings connected to projects with critical analyses and ongoing project reports -- TBA
- and THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL ACTION, pp. 79-160
- 11/10 Readings connected to projects with critical analyses and ongoing project reports and/or visiting professor or speaker -- TBA
- 11/13 Final Presentations of individual and small group projects
- and THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL ACTION, pp. 161-243
- 11/17 Final Presentations of individual and small group projects
- 11/20 FINAL PROJECTS DUE

