

**Organic Social Movements**  
**University of California, San Diego**  
**Ethnic Studies 117- Winter 2007**

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SSB 223.

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This class explores “organic” social movements among indigenous and ethnic communities. A primary purpose here is to acknowledge and emphasize communities that are subject to social, political and economic forces in local settings and global arenas which illustrate native resistance and the formation of indigenous leadership. Borrowing from Antonio Gramsci’s notion of the “organic intellectual” the premise of the course is that all communities and groups of individuals produce natural leaders who not only interact with repressive forces but utilize existing social processes, political structure, and native resources in planned and organized resistance. We will explore four primary examples that illustrate such resistance and mobilization aimed at social-cultural and political-economic change. This includes: two Chicano/a communities in San Diego (Lemon Grove and Logan Heights); the Kuna Indians of the Comarca of San Blas, Panama; Pacific Islanders of Micronesia, and the Zapatistas of Southern Mexico. Of crucial importance here is both understanding the historical forces that created the conditions for people to act, as well as the social-cultural foundations/traditions people utilize in fighting repression and claiming rights.

**Class Requirements**

Students are required to attend lectures and complete all readings by the assigned dates. Each student will write a research paper (8-10 pages) on a specific social movement or theme that is central to the course. An optional book review essay (6-8 Pages) may be submitted for extra credit. All topics must be approved. There will be two quizzes, a midterm exam and a final exam. All requirements must be completed in order to pass the course. For the final grade, these requirements are weighed as follows:

- A. Class participation 5%
- B. Quiz performance 15%
- C. Midterm Exam 25%
- D. Final Exam 30%
- E. Research Paper 25%

**Lecture, Reading and Exam Schedule**

**January**

- 9 Introduction and Overview: Organic and Indigenous Knowledge
- 11 Social Movements Defined  
Readings: Nash “Social Movements” in Reader;  
Flores and Benmayor, 1-26
- 16 Local Movements in San Diego: Lemon Grove  
Readings: Alvarez in Reader; Rosaldo (Chapter 1) in Flores and  
Benmayor
- 18 The Lemon Grove Incident (film)
- 23 Local Social Movement in San Diego: Chicano Park  
Readings: Delgado in Reader
- 25 Social Movements and Change-  
Readings: Flores and Benmayor: Chapters 4, 6, and 7

- 30 Micronesia: Colonial and post colonial expressions  
Readings: Lutz- Introduction; Alexander; Peterson; Marksbury

## **February**

- 1 Micronesia  
Readings- Lutz: Marshall and Marshall; Rubenstein; Vitarelli
- 6 Film: Half Life  
Readings: Alcalay in Lutz; Wilson in Reader
- 8 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- 13 Environmental issues and indigenous concerns: The Kuna of San Blas  
Readings: Howe in Reader
- 15 Sustainability, Ecology  
Readings: Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna. (all)
- 20 The Spirit of Kuna Yala- Film  
Reading: Chapin (PEMASKY) in Reader
- 22 Globalism and Local Change: Food, Power and Change  
Reading: TBA
- 27 The Ejercito Zapatista de Liberacion Nacional (EZLN)  
Reading: Collier (Basta) – 1-106;

## **March**

- 1 Zapatismo/ The Sixth Sun—Film
- 6 Globalism and Advocacy Networks  
Reading: Collier: 183-216; Nash (Press Reports) in Reader
- 8 Popular Culture and Resistance  
Reading: TBA
- 13 Current Social Movements  
Reading: Grimes (Free Trade) in Reader—Keck and Sikkink in Reader
- 15 Overview and Summary

## **Required Texts:**

Collier, George

2005 Basta! Land and the Zapatista Rebellion in Chiapas. San Francisco: Food First.

Flores, William and Rina Benmayor

1998 Latino Cultural Citizenship Boston: Beacon

Lutz, Katherine

1984 Micronesia as a Strategic Colony: The Impact of U.S. Policy on Micronesia Health and Culture. Boston: Culture Survival

Ventocilla, Jorge, Heraclio Herrera and Velerio Nuñez

1995 Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna. Austin: University of Texas

## **Recommended Texts:**

Howe, James

1998 A People Who Would Not Kneel. Panama, the United States, and the San Blas Kuna. Washington: Smithsonian Institution.

Katzenberger, Elaine

1995 First World Ha Ha Ha! The Zapatista Challenge. City Lights: San Francisco

- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink  
1998 Activists Beyond Borders. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Nash, June  
2005 Social Movements. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Ponce de Leon, Juanita ed.  
2001 Our Weapon. Selected Writings. Subcomandante Marcos. New York: Seven Stories Press: New York.
- Salvador, Mari Lyn ed.  
1998 The Art of Being Kuna. Los Angeles: UCLA Fowler Museum.
- Wilson, Lynn,  
1995 Speaking to Power London: Routledge

**Required Readings in ES 117 Reader:**

- Alvarez, Robert “The Lemon Grove Incident: The Nations First Successful Desegregation Court Case.” Journal of San Diego History. Spring 1986. V32, No.2.
- Chapin, Mac “Defending Kuna Yala: The Proyecto de Estudio para el Manejo de las Areas Silvesres de Kuna Yala (PEMASKY).” Unpublished MS. 1997
- Delgado, Kevin “A Turning Point: the Conception and Realization of Chicano Park.” Journal of San Diego History. Winter 1998, No.1.
- Grimes, Kimberly M. “Changing the Rules of Trade with Global Partnerships: the Fair Trade Movement.” In: Social Movements. June Nash, ed. Oxford: Blackwell. 2005
- Howe, James “The Kuna and the World: Five Centuries of Struggle”. In: The Art of Being Kuna. Mari Lyn Salvador ed. UCLA Fowler Museum: Los Angeles 1998
- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998 Activists Beyond Borders Environmental Advocacy Networks. . Ithaca: Cornell University Press:
- Nash, June “Introduction: Social Movements and Global Processes.” In: Social Movements. June Nash, ed. Oxford: Blackwell. 2005

Note: The readings, lecture themes and assignments of this syllabus may be changed by the instructor.

**Majoring or Minorin in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

You may be closer to a major, minor or a double major in Ethnic Studies than you realize. An Ethnic Studies major or minor is excellent preparation for a career in education, public policy, law, government and politics, journalism, public health, international relations, and many other careers. Please contact the Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor for more information.