

RSED 4905 Power and Movements: Approaches to Collective Liberation

*“To have without possessing, do without claiming, lead without controlling,
this is mysterious power.”*

~ Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, Ch. 51

*“Order or disorder depends on organization; courage or cowardice on circumstances;
strength or weakness on dispositions”*

~ Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, Ch. 5

Spring 2018 Residential Hybrid

SKSM Fireside Room

Wednesdays 6:00pm - 8:50pm Pacific Time

January 31, 2018 – May 9, 2018

FINAL DRAFT SYLLABUS (subject to change)

Instructor: J. Tyson Casey tcasey@sksm.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only
Grading: 3 Units. Pass/Fail (unless letter grade is requested)

I. Rationale

The world we now live in is rapidly changing – as a result of neoliberal globalization, climate disruption, and the chaotic crumbling of governing institutions. These conditions are interdependent and impermanent. They call for adaptive and emergent power rooted in connection – to the body, to one another, and to the creative potential that lives within and outside of us. The rationale of this course is to engage the interdependence of individual and collective power in contributing to social change movements, sustainability, and liberation.

The course will explore specific approaches to change through various perspectives of power, organization, and movement. This includes the artificial and natural phenomena that contribute to and are perpetuated by interlocking systems of domination. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their relationship collective liberation by: studying power and movements; working with concrete tools and practices that deepen individual, interpersonal, and institutional relationships with power and movements; reflecting upon the wisdom of spiritual and secular sources; and collaborating in the equitable cultivation of community. Students will be expected to complete readings, case-studies, reflections, and a final project that contributes to the collective wisdom of the class.

II. Intended Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to articulate their own relationships to power and movements.
- Have an understanding of different sources of power that can shape society, as well as ways in which authority, vision, organization, strategy, and action influence change.
- Be familiar with ways of engaging power and movement amidst interlocking systems of oppression.
- Be more aware of the challenges to and practices of liberation from the personal to the societal levels, so that they can be more effective, embodied, and sustainable in their actions.
- Have more tools for guiding energy in an intentional and equitable direction.
- Be able to provide leadership in a participatory process and presentation.
- Have contributed to the cultivation of beloved community.

III. Tentative Sequence

January 31

Welcome/Context Setting

February 7

Power and Movements: An Introduction

February 14

Forward Stance and Transformative Movement

February 21

Authority, Leadership, and Legitimacy

February 28

Individual Power

March 7

Interpersonal Power

March 14

Institutional Power

March 21

Strategy as a Regenerative Process

March 28

No Class: Reading Week. Take home mid-term assignment.

April 4

Healing Ourselves through Community

April 11

Visions and Dispositions

April 18

Sustainability, Organization, and the NGO-ization of Movements

April 25

Circumstances and Conditions

May 2

The Practice of Democracy

May 9

Presenting Possibilities

In-person Final

IV. Course Requirements

A. Work to be completed during the course (30%):

- Completion of mid-term assignment, which includes a case-study of a social change movement of your choosing.
- Completion of course project.

B. Participation (70%):

- On-time attendance at each class
- Full participation in all activities, conversations, and presentations
- Compliance with group agreements and processes
- Participation in a pod that contributes to the participant experience
- Completion of readings in preparation for each day
- Leading a council process
- Co-leading of a group presentation for the whole class

V. Course Readings

Unless otherwise noted, all required readings will be available in a course reader. A printed version of the reader will be available on reserve at SKSM, and can be ordered through Krishna Copy on University Avenue in Berkeley. An electronic version will be provided at the start of the course.

A. Required texts not included in the reader:

Le Guin, Ursula K. *Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching: a book about the way and the power of the way*. Boston, MA: Shambhala Publications, 1997.

List Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 9781570623950

Roy, Arundhati. *Public Power in the Age of Empire*. Open Media Pamphlet Series. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2004.

List Price: \$5.96

ISBN: 9781583226827

(NOTE: this publisher provides group discounts. please wait until start of class to purchase this publication).

B. Required reading:

Abu-Jamal, Mumia. "Star Wars and the American Imagination." In *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements* edited by adrienne maree brown and Walidah Imarisha, 255-257. Oakland, CA: AK Press and the IAS, 2015.

Boggs, James and Grace Lee. "Revolution and Evolution." In *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century*, 13-23. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2008.

Bookchin, Murray. "The Ecological Crisis and the Need to Remake Society." In *The Next Revolution: popular assemblies & the promise of direct democracy*, 30-41. Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2015.

- brown, adrienne maree. "The Principles of Emergent Strategy," and "A Conversation on Consensus with Autumn Meghan Brown." In *Emergent Strategy: shaping change, changing worlds*, 41-42, 169-173. Chico, CA: AK Press, 2017.
- Chuang-Tzu, A.C. Graham (trans.). "The essentials of our nature and destiny." In *Chuang-Tzu: The Inner Chapters*, 181-182. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2001
- Chomsky, Noam. "Government in the Future." (transcribed lecture). New York: the Poetry Center, 1970.
- Casti, John. "Why Normal Isn't So 'Normal' Anymore." In *X-Events: The Collapse of Everything*, 17-58. New York: HarperCollins, 2012.
- Davis, Angela. "Closures and Continuities." In *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the foundations of a movement*, 31-49, 61-76. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016.
- Dewi Oka, Cynthia. "Mothering as Revolutionary Praxis." In *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*, edited by Alexis Pauline Gumbs, China Martens, and Mai'a Williams, 51-57. Oakland: PM Press, 2016.
- El Kilombo Intergaláctico "Zapatismo: a brief manual on how to change the world today." In *Beyond Resistance: Everything - an interview with Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos*, 1-10. Durham: PaperBoat Press, 2007.
- Graeber, David. "How Change Happens." In *The Democracy Project*, 208 – 232. Spiegel & Grau. New York. 2013.
- Haines, Staci and Ng'ethe Maina. "The Transformative Power of Practice." In *Framing Deep Change: essays on transformative social change*, 26-32. Berkeley: Center for Transformative Change, 2010.
- Huemer, Michael. "The Psychology of Authority." In *The Problem of Political Authority: An Examination of the Right to Coerce and the Duty to Obey*, 101-136. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- Jordan, June. "Civil Wars." In *Civil Wars*, 178-188. Boston: Beacon Press, 1981.
- Jordan, June. "The Creative Spirit: Children's Literature." In *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*, edited by Alexis Pauline Gumbs, China Martens, and Mai'a Williams, 11-18. Oakland: PM Press, 2016.
- Le Guin, Ursula. "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" and "The Day Before the Revolution." In *The Wind's Twelve Quarters*, 251-259, 260-277. New York: Harper & Row, 1975.
- Le Guin, Ursula. "The Rock That Changed Things." In *A Fisherman of the Inland Sea*, 61-74. New York: HarperCollins, 1994.
- Macy, Joanna and Chris Johnstone. "Three Stories of Our Time." In *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*, 13-33. Novato: New World Library, 2012.

- Marom, Yotam. "Rome Wasn't Sacked in a Day: on reform, revolution, and winning." In *We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy from Occupation to Liberation*, edited by Kate Khatib, Margaret Killjoy, and Mike McGuire, 417-423. Oakland: AK Press, 2012.
- Movement Strategy Center. *The Practices of Transformative Movement Building*. Oakland: Movement Strategy Center, 2016.
- Palmer, Wendy. "The Elements of Basic Practice." In *The Intuitive Body: Aikido as a Clairsentient Practice*, 21-29. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books, 1994.
- Rodriguez, Dylan. "The Political Logic of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex." In *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: beyond the non-profit industrial complex*, edited by INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, 21-40. Cambridge: South End Press, 2007.
- Roy, Arundhati. "Help that Hinders." *Le Monde diplomatique* (English Edition), November 2004. Retrieved on November 18, 2013. <https://mondediplo.com/2004/11/>
- Schulman, Sarah. "The Duty of Repair." In *Conflict is Not Abuse: overstating harm, community responsibility, and the duty of repair*, 55-78, 271-280. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017.
- Sitrin, Marina. "Weaving Imagination and Creation: The Future in the Present." In *Globalize Liberation: how to uproot the system and build a better world*, edited by David Solnit, 263-276. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2004.
- Sivaraksa, Sulak. "Culture and Reconciliation." In *Conflict, Culture, Change: engaged buddhism in a globalizing world*, 25-33. Somerville: Wisdom Publications, 2005.
- Solnit, Rebecca. "Changing the Imagination of Change." In *Hope in the Dark: untold histories, wild possibilities*, 60-63, 77-82, 107-110. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016.
- Storm, Cristien. "Community Care and Social Change." In *Living in Liberation: boundary setting, self-care and social change*, 129-150. Cristien Storm, 2016.
- Sun Tzu, and Samuel B. Griffith. "Estimates." In *The Art of War*, 63-71, 77-101. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971.
- Starhawk. "Truth or Dare." In *Truth or Dare: Encounters with power, Authority, and Mystery*, 8-24. New York: HarperCollins, 1990.
- Starhawk. "The Practice of Direct Democracy." In *Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising*, 169-178. British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 2002.
- Walia, Harsha. "Moving Beyond a Politics of Solidarity toward a Practice of Decolonization." In *Organize: building from the local for global justice*, edited by Aziz Choudry, Jill Hanley, and Eric Shragge, 240-253. Oakland: PM Press, 2012.
- Wallerstein, Immanuel. "The Power of Ideas, the Ideas of Power: To Give and to Receive?" In *European Universalism: The Rhetoric of Power*, 71-84. New York: The New Press, 2006.

C. Recommended reading:

brown, adrienne maree. "Intentional Adaptation: how we change," and "Nonlinear and Iterative: the pace and pathways of change." In *Emergent Strategy: shaping change, changing worlds*, 41-50, 67-78, 103-121. Chico, CA: AK Press, 2017.

Barker, Michael. "Do Capitalists Fund Revolutions?" In *Managing Democracy, Managing Dissent*, 153 - 177. London: Corporate Watch/Freedom Press, 2013.

Benyus, Janine M. "Where will we go from here?" In *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, 285-297. New York: William Morrow, HarperCollins Publishers Inc, 1997.

Boggs, Grace Lee. "Organization Means Commitment." Detroit: National Organization for an American Revolution, 1972.

Briskin et al. "The Unlimited Cocreative Power of Groups and Communities." In *The Power of Collective Wisdom and the Trap of Collective Folly*, 147-172. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc., 2009.

Butler, Octavia. *Lilith's Brood*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2000.

Butler, Octavia. *Parable of the Sower*. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993.

Butler, Octavia. *Parable of the Talents*. New York: Seven Stories Press, 1998.

Collins, Patricia Hill. "Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment." In *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*, 221-238. Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990.

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. *On Community Civil Disobedience in the Name of Sustainability*. PM Press Pamphlet Series. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2015.

Crass, Chris. "We Can Do This: Key Lessons for More Effective and Healthy Liberation Praxis." In *Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis, and Movement Building Strategy*, 273-284. Oakland: PM Press, 2013.

Due, Tananarive. "The Only Lasting Truth." In *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements* edited by adrienne maree brown and Walidah Imarisha, 259-277. Oakland, CA: AK Press and the IAS, 2015.

Esposito, Roberto. "Bodies." *Persons and Things*, 99-148. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2015.

Freeman, Jo. "The Tyranny of Structurelessness." In *Quiet Rumours: an anarcha-feminist reader*, 68-75. Oakland: AK Press/Dark Star, 2012.

Foucault, Michel. "The Subject and Power." In *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*, edited by H. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow, 208-226. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1983.

- Funk, R. W., Roy W. Hoover, and The Jesus Seminar. *The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say?*, 135-159, 289-299. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993.
- hooks, bell. "Love as the Practice of Freedom." In *Outlaw Culture: Resisting representations*, 243-250. New York: Routledge Classics, 2006.
- Klein, Hilary. "zapatista autonomy." In *Compañeras: Zapatista Women's Stories*, 171-215. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2015.
- Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Dispossessed*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- Levine, Cathy. "The Tyranny of Tyranny." In *Quiet Rumours: an anarcho-feminist reader*, 77-80. Oakland: AK Press/Dark Star, 2012.
- Linzey, Thomas and Anneke Campbell. "Blaine and Grant Townships, Pennsylvania: The Illusion of Democracy." In *We the People: stories from the community rights movement in the United States*, 7-24. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2016.
- Mills, C. Wright. "The Theory of Balance" and "The Power Elite." In *The Power Elite*, 242-297. New York: Oxford University Press, 1956.
- Neuhaus, Richard J. "The Movement." In *Movement and Revolution*, 89-141. New York: Anchor Books, 1970.
- Nhat Hanh, Thich. "Handling Power Skillfully" and "Sparkling a Collective Awakening." In *The Art of Power*, 31-40, 159-175. New York: HarperOne, 2007.
- Parenti, Michael. "Social Role and Control," and "Who Rules Institutions?" In *Power and the Powerless*, 114-147. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1978.
- Porter, Michael E. "What is Strategy." *Harvard Business Review* (November-December 1996).
- Rojas, Paula X. "Are the Cops in Our Heads and Hearts?" In *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: beyond the non-profit industrial complex*, edited by INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, 197-214. Cambridge: South End Press, 2007.
- Schulman, Sarah. "Abandoning the Personal: the State and the Production of Abuse." In *Conflict is Not Abuse: overstating harm, community responsibility, and the duty of repair*, 55-78, 271-280. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017.
- Sitrin, Marina. "Creation," "Power," and "Dreams." In *Horizontalism: Voices of Popular Power in Argentina*, 131-176, 239-251. Oakland: AK Press, 2006.
- Smith, Jackie and Dawn Wiest. "Theorizing Social Movements and Global Change" and "Antisystemic Movements and Global Transformation." In *Social Movements in the World-System*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2012.
- Solnit, Rebecca. "The Uses of Disaster." *Harper's Magazine*, October 2005.

Stewart, Charles J. et al. "The Essential Characteristics of a Social Movement." In *Persuasion and Social Movements*, 1-26. Long Grove: Waveland Press, 2007.

Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement. "Reclaiming Revolution: history, summation, & lessons from the work of Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement (STORM)." Oakland: STORM, 2004.

Storm, Cristien. "Learning Self-Care and Self-Acceptance." In *Living in Liberation: boundary setting, self-care and social change*, 129-140. Cristien Storm, 2016.

Sun Tzu, and Samuel B. Griffith. "Offensive Strategy," "Dispositions," "Energy," and "Weaknesses and Strengths." In *The Art of War*, 63-71, 77-101. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Suzuki, Shunryu. *Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness: Zen Talks on the Sandokai*, edited by Mel Weitsman and Michael Wenger, 17-23, 190-191. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

Tang, Eric. "Non-profits and the Autonomous Grassroots." In *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: beyond the non-profit industrial complex*, edited by INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, 215-225. Cambridge: South End Press, 2007.

Tarrow, Sidney G. "Acting Contentiously." In *Power in Movement*, 95-118. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.