RSED 4907 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

Fall 2020 Synchronous Online

Zoom Meeting ID: 824 0877 5635
Password provided via email through Moodle

Mondays 2:10pm - 5:00pm Pacific Time
September 14, 2020 – December 14, 2020
Final Syllabus

Instructor: J. Tyson Casey  tcasey@sksm.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only, generally before class on Mondays
Grading: 3 Units. Pass/Fail (unless letter grade is requested in writing)

I. Rationale

The world we now live in is rapidly changing – as a result of kyriarchy, climate disruption, and the chaotic crumbling of governing institutions. These conditions are interdependent and impermanent. They call for adaptive and emergent power rooted in relationship – with the body, with one another, and with the creative potential that lives within and outside of us.

The rationale of this course is to engage the interdependence of internal and collective power in contributing to social change movements, regeneration, and liberation. The course will explore specific approaches to change through various perspectives of power, organization, and movement. This includes the phenomena that contribute to and are perpetuated by interlocking patterns of domination. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their connection to collective liberation by: studying power and movements; working with concrete tools and practices that deepen internal, 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, responsibilities, case-studies, reflections, and a final project, all of which contribute to the collective wisdom of the class.

Relates to SKSM Thresholds 2, 4, & 6, and MFC Comps 3, 5, & 7. Fulfills History of Dissenting Traditions & The@logical Quest threshold.
II. Intended Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to articulate their own relationships to engaging power and movements, from the personal to the societal levels of experience, so that they can be more effective, embodied, and regenerative in their actions.
- Have an understanding of different sources of power that can shape society amidst patterns of domination and cooperation, as well as ways in which authority, vision, organization, strategy, and agency influence change.
- Have more tools for moving energy in an intentional and equitable direction.
- Be able to provide leadership in a participatory process and presentation.

III. Tentative Sequence

**September 14**
Welcome/Context Setting

**September 21**
Power and Movements: An Introduction

**September 28**
*No class: school closed.* Yom Kippur.

**October 5**
Authority, Leadership, and Legitimacy

**October 12**
Internal Power

**October 19**
Interpersonal Power

**October 26**
*No Class: Reading Week.* Take home mid-term assignment.

**November 2**
Institutional Power

**November 9**
Visions and Dispositions

**November 16**
Strategy as a Regenerative Process

**November 23**
Sustainability, Organization, and the NGO-ization of Movements

**November 30**
Circumstances and Conditions
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.
   - Sufficient completion of a practice log and reflection paper.
   - Completion of course final project.

B. Participation (70%):
   - On-time attendance at each class
   - Full participation in all activities, conversations, and presentations
   - Compliance with group agreements and processes
   - Weekly roles that contributes to the participant experience
   - Completion of readings in preparation for each meeting session
   - 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 on the course Moodle site.

A. Required text not included on Moodle:
   (note: a newer edition was published in 2019, which is also acceptable as the core text did not change)
   List Price: $14.95

B. Essential articles and excerpts will be available on Moodle, in the specific weeks in which they are directly relevant. Not all of the readings are required for everyone. Required pre-readings for a course will be highlighted on Moodle and in the classroom. Essential reading available on Moodle:


C. Referential Reading (not on Moodle):


