**Sociology 335: Radical Movements: Histories, Theories, Collective Actions, Projects, Future Horizons**

***Fall 2023***

Prof. Agustín Laó-Montes Thompson 906, Off Hours, Wed 4:00-5:00 pm

**General Description**

This course about *Radical Movements* will introduce to the investigation of social struggles, collective actions and organizations, which seek radical transformations on the basis of analyses that go to the roots of historical injustices, and therefore fight for liberation and looking to build a more equitable and just social contract. The semester will be divided in five parts. The first couple of classes will provide a general theoretical an historical overview of the trajectory, theoretical perspectives, ideologies, and repertoires of action of radical movements. The first reading, Federici’s *Caliban and the Witch*, will study struggles in the European middle ages before the inception of western modernity. We will then spend a few sections reading two books that tell the story of the rise of antisystemic movements since slave rebellions and maroonage and the Haitian revolution, to the emergence of the kind of collective actions that are now call social movements in the 19th century. The second part of the semester will be dedicated to look into three principal types of radical movements in the 20th century: anarchist, communist, and national liberation. The third part of the semester, leaning toward the present, will begin investigating the sixties (circa 1955-1975) as a world-historical juncture in which a new kind of radicalism, named as “the new left” was born. Our inquiry into radical movements in the present will begin with reading socialist-feminist theorist Nancy Fraser’s analysis of actually existing capitalism and its alternatives. This fourth part about radical movement in the present, will focus in the United States, always conscious of global contexts and transnational implications. It will include three sections where we will investigate contemporary radicalism through the lens of Black radical movements. This will lead to the last part of the semester that will study the possibilities of building radical futures on the basis of imploding the contradictions and cultivating the emancipatory potential of the present, exploring an array of radical politics of liberation against entangled oppressions—class, gender, generation, geo-political, ethnic-racial, heteropatriarchal, epistemic, ecological.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance and participation**

Throughout the semester, we will engage in a variety of learning activities, such as lectures, discussions, in-class films, and guest speakers. Students are required to read the assigned materials prior to class as indicated on the syllabus and to be prepared to participate actively in class. As you know, this can only be possible if you dedicate enough time to read the course materials, ask questions and attend class. So, attendance will be taken for each class. Attendance and participation will count for 15% of the final grades.

**Evaluation**

In addition to class attendance and participation, the class will be evaluated with the following criteria:

1. **Class Presentations**: Beginning with the class dedicated to “the communist international” (Sept 27), there will be student group presentations. Each student will present twice in these group presentations. We will organize six groups to present the twelve remaining set of readings. The people doing the presentation will prepare a powerpoint in cooperation with the professor who will assume responsibility for part of the material, n the basis of a division of labor with student groups. We will talk in class about how specifically to do this collaboration between students and professor. The idea is that group presentations will be a way for students to take ownership and responsibility for the class, together with the professor. Given that these presentations will be a major part of classroom activity as well as of preparation for class, they will count for 35% of the final grade.
2. **Mid-Term**: A mid-term take-home exam will be distributed on October 11th and is due on October 23rd. The mid-term will count for 25% of the final grade.
3. **Final**: A final take-home exam will be distributed on December 6th (the last day of classes) and will be due via email on Saturday, December 16th. The final exam will count for 25% of the final grade.

***Any late delivery will imply a lower grade***

**Readings (in order of reading, all available through our WEB Du Bois Library)**

1. Silvia Federici. ***Caliban and the Witch***.
2. Michael West et al, Ed. ***From Toussaint to Tupac***. ***The Black International since the Age of Revolution.***
3. Giovanni Arrighi et al. ***Antisystemic Movements***.
4. Karl Marx & Frederick Engels. ***Communist Manifesto***.
5. Leslie Holmes. ***Communism: a very short introduction***.
6. Alex Prichard. ***Anarchism: a very short introduction***.
7. Aime Cesaire. ***Discourse on Colonialism***.
8. Franz Fanon. ***The Wretched of the Earth***.
9. Sonhya Sayres et al, Ed. ***The Sixties without Apology***.
10. Nancy Faser. ***Cannibal Capitalism***. ***How our System is Devouring Democracy, Care, and the Planet, and What We Can Do About It.***
11. Keeanga Yamatha-Taylor. ***From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation***.
12. Charlene Caruthers. ***Unapologetic. A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements***.
13. Kali Akuno et al. ***Jackson Rising Redux: Lessons on Building the Future in the Present*.**
14. Veronica Gago. ***Feminist International: How to Change Everything***.
15. TJ Demos. ***Radical Futurisms: Ecologies of Collapse, Chronopolitics, and Justice-to-Come*.**

**Schedule of Classes**

1. *September 6*: **An/other “Europe”: Struggles before Modernity/Coloniality I**

Reading: ***Caliban & the Witch***.

1. September 11: **An/other “Europe”: Struggles before Modernity/Coloniality II**

Reading: ***Caliban & the Witch***.

1. *September 13*: **Black Radical Traditions in their Longue Duree I**

Reading: ***From Toussaint to Tupac***

1. September 18: **Black Radical Traditions in their Longue Duree II**

Reading: ***From Toussaint to Tupac***

1. *September 20*: **Antsystemic Movements I**

Reading: ***Antsystemic Movements***

1. September 25: **Antsystemic Movements II**

Reading: ***Antsystemic Movements***

1. *September 27*: **The Communist International I**

Reading: ***Communist Manifesto***.

1. October 2: **The Communist International II**

Reading: ***Communism: a very short introduction***.

1. *October 4*: **Anarchism as World-Historical Theory and Politics.**

Reading: ***Anarchism: a very short introduction***

1. October 10: **National Liberation & Decolonizaton I**

Reading: Cesaire. ***Discourse on Colonialism***.

1. *October 11*: **National Liberation & Decolonizaton II**

Reading: Fanon. ***The Wretched of the Earth***.

1. October 16: **The Sixties** Readings: ***The Sixties without Apology***.
2. *October 18*: **The Sixties II** Readings: . ***The Sixties without Apology***.
3. October 23: **Racial-Patriarchal Capitalism I**

Reading: ***Cannibal Capitalism***.

1. *October 25*: **Racial-Patriarcal Capitalism II**

Reading: ***Cannibal Capitalism***.

1. October 31: **Contemporary Movements for Black Lives I**

Reading: ***From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation***.

1. *November 1*: **Contemporary Movements for Black Lives II**

Reading: ***From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation***.

1. November 6: **Liberation against all Chains of Oppression I**

Reading: ***Unapologetic.***

1. *November 8*: **Liberation against all Chains of Oppression II**

Reading: ***Unapologetic.***

1. November 13: **Contemporary Urban Radicalism I**

Reading: ***Jackson Rising Redux***

1. *November 15*: **Contemporary Urban Radicalism II**

Reading: ***Jackson Rising Redux***

1. November 27: **Feminism as World Revolution I**

Reading: ***Feminist International***

1. *November 29*: **Feminism as World Revolution II**

Reading: ***Feminist International***

1. December 4: **Radical Futurism I**

Reading: ***Radical Futurisms***

1. *December 6*: **Radical Futurism II**

Reading: ***Radical Futurisms***