WHAT ROLE WILL UNIONS PLAY IN 2020?

SPECIAL CLASS AT SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES!

Labor and Politics: Campaigns and Elections

Join veteran labor and political strategist Camille Rivera as we figure out why and how the Labor Movement gets involved in electoral politics.

About The Course

In Labor and Politics: Campaigns and Election, students will examine approaches to political action employed by unions in New York and the United States. The course will help students analyze the logic and practice of these various political strategies, evaluating their strengths and limitations. Emphasis will be placed on how unions decide to get involved, and how they measure success and impact.

About Camille Rivera

Camille is a partner at New Deal Strategies leading their political, labor and community relations practice. She formerly served as National Political Director for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union—leading their fights for car wash workers’ rights and against Amazon’s tax subsidies in New York. Camille served as national deputy political director for SEIU, working to get out the vote in swing states like Nevada, Colorado, & Florida and running its massive $4 million Latino GOTV effort.

Labor and Politics is offered Tuesday evening as part of the Labor Relations & Studies Credit Certificate Programs at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

For more info, visit slu.cuny.edu Needs based tuition support available.
URB 651/LABR 699 – Special Topics: Strategy and Power

How do groups achieve social transformation? This course will explore how groups at all levels of our society – including elites, labor and social movements – organize, develop strategies and deploy resources to advance their interests and achieve major change in society. To provide a shared framework, the course will begin with an overview of classical and contemporary theories of power and causation, and consider the canons of elite and social movement approaches to building and wielding power. We will then examine the historical and political science literature of social movements, from the populists to civil rights, and case studies of strategies deployed by elites, such as the orchestrated rise of neoliberalism, and others by subordinate groups, such as the campaign for marriage equality. We will consider the suite of approaches to strategy development that have been developed in business schools, Silicon Valley and the military over the past few decades, and the challenges to orthodox social change models that have been proposed by newer social movement protagonists. We will conclude by exploring the material, organizational and social conditions that are conducive to strategic breakthroughs. The class will have a heavy focus on real world contemporary cases where breakthrough strategy is needed – for example, how to build worker power or how to effectively address climate change or immigration. The goal is to equip students with theoretical understanding of core concepts and with the broad range of practical methods and frameworks needed to make change in our increasingly complex world. The class is designed for advanced social change practitioners as well as for SLU graduate students. Departmental permission required.

This course will also feature guest faculty with deep experience running major campaigns, or leading or studying major movements will present case studies of their work and their models for strategy development.
Faculty
Deepak Bhargava, Distinguished Lecturer in Urban Studies.

Penny Lewis, Associate Professor of Labor Studies.

Stephanie Luce, Chair and Professor of Labor Studies.

Who Should Apply:
This class is suitable for both current graduate students at SLU and non-students who are experienced and/or emerging labor, environmental, community or social movement organizers, campaigners or leaders. Departmental permission is required.

Meeting Schedule and Requirements:
The class will meet once a week on Tuesday nights, from 6:15 – 8:45 pm. There will be an option for participants not based in NYC to participate by video, but all NYC participants must attend in person. There will be considerable reading, writing and class engagement as part of this course, and each student will be required to define a real world strategic question that they will work on throughout the semester, alone or in partnership with other students.

Cost and How to Apply:
Non-matriculated student (part-time):
An application is required, and the fee is $65. The application can be downloaded at: bit.ly/slu_nondegree
BEFORE applying, prospective students should fill out this questionnaire, bit.ly/SLUstrategy and email it to Deepak.Bhargava@slu.cuny.edu by December 1 in order to get pre-approval for the course.
Total cost for the class would be:
* New York State resident is $1,410 for the class ($470 per credit)
* Non-NYS resident is $2,565 ($855/credit)
* total fees per semester would be $77.50

Costs for a part-time student applying for a grad level certificate:
An application is required, and the fee is $75. The application can be downloaded at: bit.ly/SLU_app
BEFORE applying, prospective students should fill out this questionnaire, bit.ly/SLUstrategy and email it to Deepak.Bhargava@slu.cuny.edu by December 1 in order to get pre-approval for the course.

Deadline for Applications is January 10, but the class will get filled as successful applications are approved, so early submission is strongly encouraged