FALL 2015;
304779. POLITICAL PROTEST, NETWORKS AND CYBERACTIVISM;

PREREQUISITES: None
LANGUAGE: English

PROFESSOR
Kerman Calvo Borobia

DAY/TIME/ROOM
Tuesdays
16 to 19:00
Room: ‘Aula virtual’ [basement]

OFFICE HOURS
Wed 12 to 14:00; Room 410, FES building

CONTACT
kerman@usal.es

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR
Kerman Calvo (MA, Madrid, PhD, Essex) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Universidad de Salamanca. His research interest includes LGBT rights, gender equality policies and alternative social movements. He is member of the editorial board of ‘Agenda Pública’, a leading political blog. Further information on his profile and publications can be obtained in http://diarium.usal.es/kerman/presentacion/
COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course aims at introducing future researchers and practitioners in politics with some salient contemporary features of contentious politics. The course will pay special attention to the newest forms of political contentious activism: namely on-line campaigns and alternative social movements that make intensive use of both offline and online tactics. While some basic ideas on social movement theory and collective protest will be reviewed, students are expected to have had some prior exposure to debates on theories of activism, protest and political change. Interesting new practices such as click-activism, crowd funding and online petitioning will be discussed.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES
On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the current implications of online protest politics for contemporary democracies.
2. Calibrate the differences between old and new forms of political activism
3. Foresee the transformative capacity of protest politics, both online and offline, for the shaping of social and political change in Spain and comparable societies.

III. TEACHING METHODOLOGY
This course is mainly participative. The classes will be based on readings, lectures, and debates about your experience, work and observations. The course contents are considered cumulative. Some classes will involve working in groups. We will use every possible resource to bring the complexity of protest politics to class.

WORKING LANGUAGE
Political Protest is part of a new family of options that use English as the working language. Note that this is a course taught in English, but not an English course. Your evaluation will depend on motivation, attendance, and energies put in preparing presentations and assignments. It, however, will NOT depend on your proficiency with the English language. Please see this as an opportunity to start using your linguistic skills in a professional environment; your English is surely much better than you think it is! Most of the items included in the reading list will be written in English; discussions will also be held in the English language. However, students will be given the choice to write either in Spanish or in English. Rehearsing your written English is advisable, yet not mandatory for this course.

IV. ASSESSMENT & GRADING
DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Presentations
Students are expected to make FOUR ‘paper’ presentations in this course. Drawing on course contents, you will be asked to pick up a paper of your liking and deliver a short (15 to 20m length) presentation on basic ideas and findings. Presentations are expected to be in the English language. Each presentation has the value of 1 point.
Essay
This is a 5000 to 6000 words paper on a topic of your choice. It is advised that students discuss the topic and orientation of this essay with the instructor, either in class or in a private conversation. In any case, a session on essays, topics and approaches will be organized in the last week of the course. Reviews of particular literatures are welcome.
This essay must be uploaded in Studium by January 12th 2017 (12:00).

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS [This holds both the ‘Primera’ and ‘Segunda’ convocatorias].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1- RESEARCH PAPER</strong></td>
<td>12th of January 2017</td>
<td><strong>60%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2- FOUR PAPER PRESENTATIONS</strong></td>
<td>DEPENDS ON CLASS ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
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V. CONTENTS OUTLINE (19 SEPT 2016)

Our course runs for 8 weeks, starting October 4th 2016.

1. SOCIAL MOVEMENT THEORY: THE CONTENTIOUS POLITICS APPROACH.

Flesher Fominaya, Cristina. 2014. Social Movements and Globalization: How Protests, Occupations and Uprisings are Changing the World. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan. [Chapters 1 to 3].

McAdam, Doug; Tarrow, S; Tilly, Charles. 2001. Dynamics of Contention. Cambridge: Cambridge University Pres. [Chapters 1 and 2].

2. THE NEW CYCLE OF ALTERNATIVE/AUTONOMOUS PROTEST: FROM ZAPATISMO TO THE FUTURE!


3. ONLINE ACTIVISM


4. POLITICAL PROTESTING: COLLECTIVE ACTION DYNAMICS AND NETWORKS


5. CONTEMPORARY INDIGNATION


6. THE CONSEQUENCES AND FUTURE OF PROTESTING


7. SOME TOOLS FOR RESEARCH IN POLITICAL PROTEST


8. OLD AND NEW FORMS OF TERRORISM; RADICAL ISLAMIZATION.
