

CALL FOR APPLICANTS - Fall 2020

CUNY SPECIAL TOPICS: POWER AND STRATEGY



URB 651/LABR 699 – Special Topics: Strategy and Power

How do groups in society achieve the changes they seek? This course will explore how elites, labor, community organizations, political parties and social movements organize, develop strategies and deploy resources to advance their interests and win major changes in society. To provide a shared framework, we'll begin with an overview of classical and contemporary theories of power and cause and effect. We'll look at elite strategies to wield power developed in the military, Silicon Valley, business, and politics and consider a wide range of "strategies from below." In the eternal battle between David and Goliath, how and why does David sometimes win? We'll investigate at a variety of case studies, including the orchestrated rise of neoliberalism, the fight for marriage equality and contemporary debates on how to revitalize the labor movement. The class will focus heavily on introducing applied tools for strategy development from a variety of traditions. The class is appropriate for intermediate to advanced social change organizers and campaigners, as well as for graduate students. The class will feature guest faculty and practitioners with extensive experience building winning campaigns.

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.



**CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR
AND URBAN STUDIES**

Faculty

Deepak Bhargava, Distinguished Lecturer in Urban Studies.

Stephanie Luce, Chair and Professor of Labor Studies.

Who Should Apply:

This class is suitable for both current graduate students and for non-matriculated students who are experienced labor, community, environmental or social movement leaders, organizers, or campaigners. *Departmental permission required.*

Meeting Schedule and Requirements:

The class will meet on Tuesday evenings, September 1 until December 14, from 6:15 – 8:45 pm. There will be an option for participants not in NYC to participate by video but all NYC participants must attend in person. There will be extensive reading, writing and class engagement as part of this course. Non-matriculating students who are social change practitioners will be assessed based on their application of tools presented in the course.

Cost:

Exact tuition and fee levels have not been set for the fall term, but for the spring 2020 term fees and tuition costs for non-matriculating NYS residents were \$1552.50 and for non-matriculating out-of-state students \$2707.50. For graduate students, the total cost was the same, plus an additional \$10.00 in application fees.

Application Questions - send responses to Deepak.Bhargava@slu.cuny.edu

1. Are you currently a student and if so where? If you are a practitioner who is not a student, what is your organizational affiliation and role?
2. How did you hear about the course? If applicable, who referred you to us?
3. Please explain why you want to take this course (under 250 words)
4. Please explain what relevant practical experience you have had in developing real world strategy and building power and/or relevant study or research you have undertaken on these topics. (under 250 words)
5. Please describe a current strategic question you are facing in your work, or considering in your academic work, that you would bring into this class (under 100 words)
6. If a current SLU student, please name current SLU faculty who could speak to your readiness for this advanced course. If you are not a current student but are an experienced social change practitioner, please name a social change leader you have worked with who could speak to your experience and readiness for this advanced course.
7. Please affirm your ability to participate in every class, your commitment to do substantial reading (about 100 pp) each week in advance of class, and to complete all assignments in a timely way.

Deadline for Applications: May 30th. But the class will be filled as successful applications are approved, so early submission is strongly encouraged.

