Course Overview: The course is designed to introduce students to the most relevant literature in Labor Studies as it applies to the experience of social and labor movements and diverse workers in Los Angeles.

Each week students will gain exposure to concepts of social justice, social movements and work and labor issues in the context of the global city: Los Angeles. The class involves an in-depth examination of the experience of low-wage workers, working people’s concerns and the role of the labor movement in Los Angeles from historical and contemporary perspectives. Topics to be examined include: the changing organization of work in the U.S. and the reconfiguration of employment relationships; the response of the labor movement to a changing economy and managerial initiatives; the ways in which organized labor has handled issues of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and immigration status; and the challenges facing workers and young workers in particular in Los Angeles.

This class will be organized around the theme of social movements, labor, young workers and their families. All students are required to engage in three applied research projects linked to these topics:

1. Participate in a project focused janitor parent workers, their school-aged children and the growing social movement for quality public schooling and equitable college and university access opportunities. This will include curating a special collections Justice for Janitor’s exhibit at the YRL library and coordinating a UCLA tour for USWW (United Service Workers West) janitor parents.
and their children on **Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 12-5pm**. In this module, students will learn special collections archive retrieval and documentation skills as well story telling techniques to curate a sample special collections exhibit (Weeks 1-4)

2. Coordinate a UCLA Labor Center *Young Workers in Los Angeles* study and photo gallery launch. This study and gallery focus on the experiences of workers ages 18-29 employed in the retail, restaurant, fast food and grocery industries across LA county. Here students will work in teams to create social media messaging, story banks and dissemination strategies to promote the *Young Workers in Los Angeles* study report and photo gallery launch on **Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center at 675 S. Parkview St, Los Angeles, CA 90057**. In this module, students will learn social media as method techniques and storytelling/banking skills. (Weeks 5-8)

3. Conduct an exploratory research exercise focused on the gig or sharing economies. Students will discuss the debates and critiques around this growing industry in class and develop brief field observations and interview protocols. In this module, students will work in teams and learn field note observation skills and conduct 2 interviews with a taxi driver and an Uber/Lyft service provider. (Weeks 9-10)

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Students are expected to engage in all 3 short term research projects and **commit 5-7 hours per week in these applied research experiences** (35-40 hours in total for the quarter) to expand their understanding of research methods and labor and social justice community issues. Students who are unable to commit to these projects will have to meet with faculty to conceptualize and design a research project for the course.

Students enrolled in this class will be expected to collaborate and contribute to the three projects listed above: The goals of these projects are:

1. To train and expose students to innovative research practices and methods related to low-wage workers and contemporary labor and social movements in Los Angeles with a focus on young low-wage workers and their families.

2. To engage worker leaders, union members, community-based organizations, students, faculty and the broader public about the labor and community issues facing young, low-wage workers and their families.

**Assignments:**

1. **Class participation and attendance (10 points).** This class will be conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to carefully read and complete the assigned texts and exercises for class. Each week a series of questions will be posted and students will be expected to come to class with
responses to the questions that are grounded in the readings for the week. Students must come prepared to discuss and present these in class in detail. Therefore, this class will require the active participation and consistence attendance of all students enrolled. Students will be required to sign up for one week during the quarter to lead the reading discussion section. Signup for this will happen at the beginning of the quarter. Unexplained absences from class will count against your grade. **Class participation and attendance will account for 10% of your final grade.**

2. Project Reflection Papers and Materials (30 points - 10 points each) – Three- 4 page, double-spaced reflection papers utilizing Times-12 font with one inch margins. Guidelines for each paper will be posted on the class website.

3. Research Project or Field Work Project (25 points). Each student will be required to engage in the course series of field research projects. **This is the major requirement for this class and will account for 25% of your final grade.** You will need to keep an accurate log of your hours in the field and turn this log in at the end of the course with your final paper to receive full points. Each student is required to spend approximately 35-40 hours in the field for the quarter on 3 respective projects which amount to approximately 5-7 hours per week. Students who are unable to work on unable to engage in 1 or more of the field work projects will have to meet with the faculty to discuss an independent research project for the course.

   a. **Justice for Janitors Special Collections Archive -Field Research Project** –This archival field project will focus on working with UCLA Special Collections archive on the SEIU-Unites Service Workers West- Justice for Janitors archive house at YRL. Student will learn how to review primary archival documents within a special collections archive as well as how to curate and develop a visual narrative focused on the materials collected. Students will work together in project groups to develop a narrative and to curate an exhibit at the YRL special collections room in YRL on 10/24/15/. Each student will be required to curate at least 5 archive exhibit documents and develop a storyboard in padlet [https://padlet.com/](https://padlet.com/) with your team. This padlet team presentation will take place during class on Week 4. In addition, each student is required to write a 4-page reflection paper on their experience with the archive. **Students must commit to supporting and coordinating a UCLA low-wage worker day on campus on Saturday October 24, 2015 from 11am-5pm.**

   b. **Young Workers in Los Angeles- Social Media Project** - This social media research project is focused on a UCLA Labor Center-Young Workers in Los Angeles study and photo gallery that will be launched on November 18, 2015. The purpose of the study is to examine how young workers experience and understand their jobs in Los Angeles county within the retail, restaurant, fast food and grocery industries. This research endeavor is part of a larger study sponsored by Labor Studies Minor faculty and community partners known as the Working LA: Young Workers in Global Los Angeles. You will be required to develop a series of social media products and story banks to engage audiences around the November 18, 2015 *Young Workers in LA* photo gallery and report launch. You will learn to develop memes, infographics and visually engaging materials using tools like Canva [https://www.canva.com/](https://www.canva.com/), Vennage [https://venngage.com/](https://venngage.com/) and Piktochart [http://piktochart.com/](http://piktochart.com/) to promote the study findings and launch. The report event will take place at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, 675 S. Parkview St, Los Angeles, CA
90057 from 6pm-9pm. You are required to develop 3-4 products in teams and actively post on various social media outlets. You will share these products with faculty as part of your final research portfolio. A 4-page reflection paper on the process will also be required. (Weeks 5-8)

c. **The Sharing and Gig Economies- Field Observations and Informal Interviews**- Students will conduct a brief and exploratory research exercise focused on the gig and sharing economies. In this module, students will work in teams and conduct field observations and informal interviews as consumer of Uber/Lyft services. Students are required to turn in a 4 page reflection paper plus typed up field observation and interview notes. (Weeks 9-10)

4. **Final Presentations (10 points)**. Students will be asked to conduct **5-10 minute** presentations with their teams (group presentations are recommended and presentation guidelines will be posted on the course website) at the end of the course. Students, worker leaders, Labor Center staff and faculty will be invited to this presentation/celebration.

5. **Final Research Project Portfolio (25 points)**. Students are required hand in complete portfolio as a google folder with all materials and papers developed over the quarter. Portfolio guidelines will be available on the course website. Well organized portfolios with all completed materials are worth 25% of your grade and are due to the faculty by Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 5:00 pm as a google doc shared with the faculty at jshadduckhernandez@gmail.com.

Late papers will receive a lower grade.

**Grade breakdown:**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Reflection Papers + Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Research &amp; Field Work Projects</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Research or Field Work Portfolio</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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<td>96.9 – 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92.9 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89.9 – 87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86.9 – 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82.9 – 80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>62.9 – 60</td>
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All course readings will be uploaded to the website for the class. Syllabus is subject to change.

Course Outline and Schedule of Required Readings:

Justice for Janitors
Week 1, September 29, 2015- Social Movements and Labor in Los Angeles, Course Overview & Research Project
Guest Lecturer: Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, Project Director, UCLA Labor Center
a) Introduction to the class, each other, and a discussion of the syllabus requirements.
b) Research and field projects discussed.
Readings:

Week 2: October 6, 2015- Los Angeles Labor Organizing Model and the Justice for Janitors Campaign
Guest Lecturer: Kelly Besser, UCLA Special Collections Archive
Readings:

Week 3: October 13, 2015- Labor and Social Movements- A focus on Intersectionality
Lecturer: Preeti Sharma, Ph.D. candidate-Department of Gender Studies
Readings:
Week 4: October 20, 2015- Social, Economic Class and the Labor Movement
Guest Speakers: TBA

Readings:

Due: 1. Group Presentations in Class: Justice for Janitor’s archive 2. Reflection Paper #1

Saturday, October 24, 2015 Justice for Janitors Tour-USWW janitors and their children visit the UCLA Special Collections and tour campus from 11am- 3pm

Young Workers in Los Angeles
Week 5: October 27, 2015- Young Workers in Low-wage Industries
Guest Lecturers: Vanessa Moreno, UCLA Labor Center, Communications Coordinator

Week 6: November 3, 2015- Youth Social Movements
Guest Lecturer: Nancy Meza, Marketing and Communications Associate, East Los Angeles Community Corporation and Lucero Herrera, UCLA Labor Center

Readings:
4. Black Lives Matters- Compilation of newspaper article readings on website

November 5, 2015-Engage in Los Angeles with the Dean of Social Sciences from 12 noon-2pm in the UCLA Young Research Library Presentation Room
Week 7: November 10, 2015- Gender, Ethnicity and Youth in the LA Labor Movement

Guest Speaker: Kathy Hoang- Director - Restaurant Opportunities Center/ROC-LA

Readings:

Due: Reflection Paper #2

Week 8: November 17, 2015-The Future of Labor and Young Worker Organizing

Guest Speaker: Our Walmart-UFCW 770-Heavily Espinoza


November 18, 2015-Young Workers in Los Angeles Photo Gallery and Report Launch at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, 675 S. Parkview St., Los Angeles, CA 90057 from 6pm-9pm

Gig and Sharing Economies

Week 9: November 24, 2015-The Sharing Economy

Guest Lecturer:

Readings:
Week 10: December 1, 2015-The Gig Economy and Connecting the Dots

Guest Speaker: TBA

Readings:


Due: Reflection Paper #3

Work on finishing field research project portfolios.

Week 11: December 10, 2015 @ 11:30am-2:30 pm Room to be announced: Final Presentations

Final Research Portfolios with all course material are due on Thursday December 17, 2015 by 5:00 pm via email to instructors in a google folder shared with jshaduckhernandez@gmail.com