

Code of Conduct

1. OLAFS is a substance free place.
 - a. No person leading a workshop shall be under the influence of any substance.
 - b. There is to be no use of substances (including cigarettes) during workshop or meetings.
 - c. No person at OLAFS shall be visibly or disruptively under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Respect for people and space.
 - a. Respect is shown by active listening. Respect the person speaking, and do not talk over or interrupt that person.
 - b. Respect is shown by not taking up too much mental real estate. Remember there are others present and share the conversation.
 - c. Respect is shown by acknowledging bias/privilege.
 - d. Respect is shown by attacking ideas through logic, rather than people through emotion.
 - e. Respect for a space is shown by leaving it the way we found it.
 - f. We will not tolerate derogatory statements or expressing “isms” (ex. racism, sexism, and ageism)
3. OLAFS is open to intellectual challenges
 - a. We encourage asking for the logic or evidence supporting a claim.
 - b. We encourage scientific inquiry.
 - c. We encourage pointing out positions of privilege.
 - d. The community holds people responsible for being respectful and holds no hesitation in commenting on acts of disrespect.
 - e. Be open to discomfort from differing viewpoints. Be open to changing your mind.
4. We reserve the right to ask anyone to leave for violating these codes of conduct. Disruption is at the discretion of the facilitator.
5. Silence is encouraged. Do not fill space between people speaking simply because silence is uncomfortable. Please give people enough time to formulate cohesive responses before responding to a statement. We would like responses, not reactions.

Class Approval Process

In line with the Occupy movement's focus on maintaining a horizontal power structure; we come to decisions by the process of consensus. The current process for approving classes is as follows:

1. Proposal is submitted
2. Temperature check
3. Discussion
4. People state concerns/ hard blocks
5. Concerns/hard blocks are addressed
6. Temperature check

If consensus is not reached after hard blocks/concerns have been addressed- we move to rough consensus

7. If 90% of committee agrees then scheduling team works with presenter to schedule time.
 - If 90% of committee does not agree then email team contacts individual informing them that the committee has decided to pass on their proposal but encourage them to set up discussion groups outside of OLAFS to share their information.

Notes

Classes/ Workshops must fall within one of the following three branches:

- social/political/economic justice
- sustainability
- community needs

*community defined as the members of the OLA diaspora

Classes/ Workshops are not a place to evangelize.

Classes/ Workshops are not a place to promote products or organizations.

Classes/ Workshops are not places to gain endorsement for political parties, persons or affiliates.

A hard block is put up if and only if:

1. It conflicts with one of the notes above
2. you believe it threatens someone's safety
3. you believe it would undermine the solidarity of the committee or OLA as a whole
4. you believe it would threaten the movement

Class Proposal Form

Potential facilitators, please submit a proposal using the format below:

Facilitator Name:

Email:

Phone:

Title of Proposed Class:

Description of class:

Outline of class:

What facts will you cover?

What discussion points will you bring up?

Objective of class:

How does this class further our movement and its focus?

What do you hope people that come to this will gain from it?

Brief bio of presenter:

How/where presenter gained the knowledge they want to share?

Requested class date(s) and time:

Classes are currently offered in 60 or 90 minute blocks from 1 pm until 6 pm on Sundays.

(Please send to OLAFreedomSchool@gmail.com)

We hope to get back to you within 5 days of submitting your proposal, but appreciate your patience. It's recommended that you submit your class proposal 1-2 weeks before you would like to teach. We also recommend that you review our class approval process and code of conduct as well.

Mission

We're committed to the co-construction of knowledge which encourages critical-thought, creative problem-solving through cooperation, and ultimately liberation, for the purpose of propelling and aiding to focus the Occupy movement in Los Angeles and beyond. We encourage self-reflection, dialogue, and respect for others.

Principles

1. Maintain classes/discussions/workshops that fall within the following branches:
 - a. Social/Political/ Economic Justice
 - b. Sustainability
 - c. Community needs
2. Maintain an environment that is as safe and inclusive as possible
3. Hold each other accountable for actions/words while understanding that we are all still in the process of constant learning and decolonization.
4. Maintain an environment that fosters Paolo Freire's principles of popular education specifically dialogue that encourages critical thought, self-reflection with a focus on personal experience.
5. Hold community needs as the cornerstone of OLAFS
6. Make a constant effort to have the community involved in the process of OLAFS and the selection of classes/discussions/workshops it offers.
7. Maintain a space that is not used for advertising, indoctrination or evangelizing.
8. Maintain a horizontal power structure in anything related to OLAFS

Previously Held Classes



- Strategic Action Planning
- Know Your Rights training
- Legal Observer training
- Is this Fascism?: A Critical Discussion of the Current Political Situation
- What is Education?
- Tensions in the History of the U.S Labor Movement and its Role in Promoting Social Justice
- Empowering Education for All Children
- Why Don't they Care About Public Education?
- Healthcare for All: Analyzing the Single-Payer Healthcare Model
- Public Education, the International Issue: History and Work of the Trinational Coalition to Defend Public Education
- Marx and U.S Society Today- The Labor Theory of Value
- From the Indignados of Spain to the Chilean Student Movement
- Facism and the Radical Right: Exposing and Rejecting the Cynical Opportunism of the 1%
- Is this Fascism?: Neoliberalism, Neoconservatism, and the Redefinition of American Politics and Society
- Racism, Repression, and the Police State
- Racism, Capitalism & Hegemony: Things to Understand
- The U.S Civil Rights Movement and Desegregation of Schools
- Visions for a New Society: What do We Want?
- Defending the Impractical in the Time of Budget Cut: Using Theories for Social Change
- Visions and Actions for Public Education in the New Market
- Fighting the Corporate Attack on Higher Education
- The History and Tactics of Non- Violence
- Industrial Hemp
- Basic Economics

Occupy Los Angeles Freedom School



Junior Freedom Fighters teaching a class on child activism

Website: OLAFS.US

Email: OLAFreedomSchool@gmail.com

