A blind spot in organization studies, human resources management and industrial relations is the fact that the world of work is not made up only of the employer and the individual worker. And there are many different types of worker collectivity beyond unions. Wherever workers find themselves under conditions of subordination and/or dependency, they unite in a variety of collective organizations to further their interests. Indeed, they may belong to, or owe their allegiance to, or be regulated by, several different collective organisations at the same time.

This course will explore the causes, the shapes, the dynamics and the complexities of collective action. Through a mixture of theory and empirical investigation, this course will help Saint Mary’s Management PhD students expand their appreciation and understanding of collective action.

The following are a selection of topics that will be covered and texts that apply to these topics.

- **The Logic of Collective Action**
  I. A Theory of Groups and Organizations
  III. The Labor Union and Economic Freedom
  1. Chapter 7 “Two Logics of Collective Action.”
  2. Chapter 2
  3. Chapter 3
  4. Chapters 1
  5. Chapter 2
  6. Chapters 2
  7. Chapter 3
  8. Chapter 4

- **Social closure theory**
  9. Chapter 4
  10. Chapter 5
  11. Chapter 6

- **Guilds and other forms of collective action**
  o Guilds

- Professions and professional societies

- Co-operatives

- Trade Unions
  14. Chapter II
  15. Chapter III

- Collective action amid new media production

- Synthesizing collective action

- Synthesizing collective action