

Community Psychology (Fall 2016) Psychology 231

Instructor:

Christopher Baker, Ph.D.

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Office/Hours: BSB 2056 / T and TH 12:30-1:30 pm, T 3:30-4:30 pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Sarah Hernandez, M.A.

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Office/Hours: BSB 1073 / Tuesdays from 1-2 pm, or by appointment

Text: Kloos, B., Hill, J., Thomas, E., Wandersman, A., Elias, M. J., & Dalton, J. H. (2012). *Community Psychology: Linking Individuals and Communities* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Meeting Time/Location: TTH 2 - 3:15 / Lecture Center Building D2

Credit Hours (3), Prerequisites: PSCH 100 Introduction to Psychology

Course Description: Understanding the relationship between social systems and individual wellbeing in a community-based context. Focusing on multiple levels of analysis, such as individuals, groups, programs, organizations and whole communities.

Blackboard:

- Course syllabus posted under **Syllabus**
- Additional readings (i.e., reader) and project consent form posted under **Materials**

- Shell* PowerPoint slides posted under **Lectures**

*Slides DO NOT contain key points, only figures/graphs and contextual details - You must come to lecture to fill in missing information on slides.

Attendance: This course relies on class activities and information presented during class that are not available in-text or in readings. It will be especially important to attend classes to perform well. If you are unable to attend a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the materials covered. Please inform me of any circumstance that would cause you to miss multiple classes.

Disability Services: If you require accommodations for a disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Since accommodations may require early planning, please contact DRC as soon as possible:

Website: <http://drc.uic.edu>

(312) 413-2183 Voice

(312) 413-7781 FAX

DRC Staff Members contact information is available on the Meet the DRC Staff Page

(<http://drc.uic.edu/meet-the-drc-staff>)

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be helpful!

Academic Dishonesty: Students will be held to the University's standards on academic dishonesty as described in the following Student Code of Conduct:

<http://dos.uic.edu/docs/Student%20Disciplinary%20Policy.pdf>

EVALUATION: Overview

<u>Type</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% Course Grade</u>
In-Class Activities:	10 pts	5%
Section 1 exam:	40 pts	20%
Section 2 exam:	40 pts	20%
Final exam:	30 pts	15%
Research Paper:	40 pts	20%
<u>Interview Project:</u>	<u>40 pts</u>	<u>20%</u>
	200 pts	100%

Extra Credit: (1) Creative Project. (2) Extra credit opportunities will be available in-class. The more you attend class, the more likely you will be there for an extra credit opportunity.

Makeup Policy: Makeup exams are all-essay format and are substantially more difficult than scheduled exams. It is to your benefit to attend all scheduled exams.

Religious/Cultural Holidays: I respect and accommodate all religious/cultural holidays. If an exam conflicts with a holiday, you will not be asked to take the makeup version. However, you must give advanced notice so that accommodations can be made.

Curve: Grades will be scaled when appropriate. Otherwise, grades will be based on the standard 90/80/70/60 scale.

Course Outline: 8/23/2016-12/07/2016

*** Outline subject to change with advanced notice**

-- week 1--

August 23: Course Overview

August 25: Introduction to Community Psychology

Reader: Shinn (2009): Ending Homelessness for Families

-- week 2--

August 30: Levels of Analysis, Core Values

Text: *Chapter 1*

September 1: In-Class Activity 1

Text: *Chapter 1*

***September 2, Last day to complete late registration; last day to add a course(s) or make section changes; last day to drop individual courses via Student Self-Service without receiving W (Withdrawn) grade on academic record. Last day to submit Withdraw from Term request via Student Self-Service and receive 100% cancellation of tuition and fees.**

-- week 3--

September 6: Student Veterans & Past Student Groups

Reader: Rosenhan (1973): On Being Sane in Insane Places

September 8: Aims of Research

Text: *Chapter 3*

Reader: Oser et al. (2014): School and Community Wellness

-- week 4--

September 13: In-Class Activity 2

Text: *Chapter 3*

September 15: Speaker: Any Positive Change

-- week 5--

September 20: Methods

Text: *Chapter 4*

September 22: Methods

Text: *Chapter 4*

-- week 6--

September 27: In-Class Activity 3

September 29: Communities: Social Capital

Text: *Chapter 6*

-- week 7--

October 4: Ecology, Environmental Psychology

Text: *Chapter 5*

October 6: Speaker: Lead in the Water

Text: *Chapter 5*

-- Week 8--

October 11: EXAM 1

**October 13: In-Class Activity 4
Research Paper Due**

-- week 9--

October 18: Empowerment

Text: *Chapter 11*

Reader: Dewettinck and Ameijde (2011): Leadership Empowerment and Employee Attitudes

October 20: Citizen Participation

Text: *Chapter 11*

-- week 10--

October 25: Community and Social Change

Text: *Chapter 12*

Reader: Alinsky (1971) Rules for Radicals - Tactics

October 27: In-Class Activity 5

Text: *Chapter 12*

***October 28, Last day for undergraduate students to use optional late drop in college office and receive grade of W on academic record.**

-- Week 11--

November 1: Diversity

Text: *Chapter 7*

November 3: Speaker: Diverse City

-- Week 12--

November 8: Election Day: GO VOTE

November 10: Flex Day
Interview Project Due

-- Week 13--

November 15: Prevention and Promotion
Text: Chapter 9

November 17: Community Nutrition

-- Week 14--

November 22: EXAM 2

November 24: Thanksgiving

-- Week 15--

November 29: Group Presentations

December 1: Creative Projects Due

-- Week 16--

Final Exam Week

Wednesday December 7, 3:30 pm -5:30 pm: Final Exam

EXTRA CREDIT: Creative Project

The purpose of this project is to give students an opportunity to demonstrate substantial knowledge of a course topic through creative means. Students may be awarded up to 10 points extra credit. Students will be judged on the degree to which they demonstrate knowledge of a topic (up to 5 points) and their creativity in demonstrating this knowledge (up to 5 points). Group projects (up to 5 students) are allowed only for those doing performance-based activities; these should not exceed 5 minutes. Individual projects can be submitted in-class and do not have to be performed.

NOTE: All creative projects are due by class time. No exceptions.

Research Paper: Due October 13

FORMAT: 3 Pages, Double Spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins.

SUBMISSION: Papers should be submitted through Safe Assign on Blackboard.

TOPIC & GRADING: **Identify a community organization in Chicago (or surrounding suburbs) that is currently working to effect social change.**

10 pts: Describe the (1) social problem this group is attempting to remedy, (2) the effect of this problem on individual and community wellbeing and (3) what this group is doing to remedy this problem.

10 pts: Discuss 3 levels of analysis contributing to this social problem.

10 pts: Discuss how the following 3 concepts of community psychology relate to this organization's work:

(1) Prevention over treatment

(2) Collective wellness as a way to increase individual wellness

(3) Empowering citizens to participate

5 pts: Offer a critique and propose a solution to improving the success of this intervention. (NOTE: every organization can improve. You must offer some thoughtful critique beyond increasing money and resources.)

5 pts: Overall quality of writing.

This paper is 20% of your final grade, thus it should be of professional college-level quality. This paper is short. The goal is to say as much as you can with as few words as possible. This is an important skill to master and it applies to almost every professional context.

-3 pts: Each significant spelling/grammatical error.

-5 pts: Submitting paper over 3 pages or more than a few lines under 3 pages.

-5 pts: Each instance of failing to follow other format requirements or assignment instructions.

Interview Project: Due November 10

FORMAT: **Paper:** 3 Pages, Double Spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins.

Questions + Answers: No Length Requirement, Double Spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins.

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SUBMISSION: **Printed hardcopy** of your project should be submitted in-class. This includes: (a) the 3-page paper, (b) the interview questions + answers and (c) the signed consent form.

Electronic copy must also be submitted through Safe Assign on Blackboard.

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TOPIC & GRADING: **Identify an individual that belongs to a Chicago-based organization that is working to remedy a social injustice through community action.**

NOTES: (1) Interviewee cannot be a member of the organization from your research paper or someone affiliated with UIC. (2) You must gain consent to conduct this interview and use their responses for an academic assignment, consent forms are provided on blackboard. (3) Interviews must be conducted face-to-face or via Skype (or similar program). You cannot conduct the interview by phone or email.

10 pts: Construct 10 questions to best understand their experience with this community action. You must determine what questions to ask, but some questions should reflect their motivations for involvement, the methods being used and their successes and failures.

10 pts: Provide a brief description of the person you interviewed, the organization, the social injustice they are fighting and the community action they are undertaking. Provide a brief summary of what you learned from the interview and make sure to comment on responses that you found particularly interesting or important.

10 pts: Discuss how interviewee's responses related to the following 3 concepts from this course:

- (1) Respect for diversity
- (2) Multiple levels for intervention
- (3) Community strengths

5 pts: Discuss aspects of the environment that make this social injustice and community action unique (or not unique) to Chicago.

5 pts: Overall quality of writing.

-1 pt: Hardcopy not stapled.

-3 pts: Each significant spelling/grammatical error.

-5 pts: Failing to submit both hardcopy and copy through Safe Assign.

-5 pts: Submitting paper over 3 pages or more than a few lines under 3 pages.

-5 pts: Each instance of failing to follow other format requirements or assignment instructions.