

Community Psychology
PSCH 231 ~ Fall 2016
Mon & Wed 3-4.15P (2LCD D004)
CRN: 12079

Professor

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Objectives

The objective of this course is to expose you to the perspectives of community psychologists as they approach human behavior and social phenomena. Specifically, this course will be focused on the psychological principles, research, and interventions appropriate for various community settings, such as community-based human services, emphasis on primary prevention, collaborative partnerships, consultation and advocacy efforts, social ecology, organizational change, and citizen engagement.

The lecture and discussion topics, readings, assignments, and projects are all aimed at deepening your understanding of the practice of community psychology, and expanding your understanding of people and events in the context of their multiple settings. By the end of the semester you will have enhanced your abilities to think critically about individual and social phenomena, and in ways that are consistent with the practice of community psychology. In addition, you will be better equipped to critically evaluate the performance and work of other community members, professionals, and organizations. Class time will be devoted to (a) lectures, (b) discussions, (c) activities, (d) assignments, (e) possibly guest speakers, (f) two exams, and (g) a final exam.

Prerequisites

Students should already have credit for PSCH 100 (Introduction to Psychology – Individual and Society Course). If you do not have this prerequisite, you **WILL** be dropped from the course. It is your responsibility to ensure you are in compliance. It is University policy, and it will **NOT** make any exceptions.

Textbooks

Required: Kloos, B., Hill, J., Thomas, E., Wandersman, A., Elias, M. J., & Dalton, J. H. (2012). *Community Psychology: Linking Individuals and Communities (Third Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Recommended: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*. (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Requirements

Readings & Lectures. The assigned readings will primarily be chapters from your textbook, which will be complemented by journal articles and other current publications as needed. You will also have to do some supplementary readings to complete activities and assignments.

Class Participation. This course requires you to be an active participant, which means that you should think about how various topics and issues discussed in class apply to you, people you care about, settings in which you function, and issues that matter to you. And ask questions out loud—what works, what doesn't work, why, why not, what could be good or bad about points being made, what are some alternative views not being considered.

To be an active participant regular attendance and punctuality are crucial. Attendance is part of your grade for this class and you will not receive attendance points when you are absent (think of attendance as *effortless* extra credit—in case you need those extra points for your final grade). For each class there will be an Attendance List with all of your names in print. You must sign next to your printed name each time you are in class. If you do not sign the Attendance List it will be assumed you were not in class and you will not receive attendance credit for that class. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the materials, assignments, and announcements pertaining to missed classes.

You are expected to be respectful toward everyone present in the classroom, and to speak respectfully about any person or group of people being discussed during class or in assignments. Insults or any other type of derogatory attitudes will not be tolerated. In addition, you will lose participation points if you are observed surfing the internet, reading email, using your cell phone, or if you engage in any other activity not explicitly pertinent to the work being done in class at that moment. Be aware that if any inappropriate or unacceptable behavior occurs repeatedly, I will ask you to leave the class. In extreme cases, I will ask you to not come back to class, and you will have to forfeit any points you have received for attending class.

Assignments

Class Activities. Each week we will spend time completing a class activity that may involve both individual and group work. At the end of class the written portion of the activity must be submitted with your name on it, or the name of all group members, for each of you to get credit for class activity participation.

Assigned Reaction Journals. Each month (September, October & November) you will submit a Reaction Journal. Given that we are in an election year, especially one that has brought up various dilemmas about intergroup relationships and conflict, the Reaction Journals will be a written reaction or response to a news report or scientific article related to the issues of "*Social Influence & Social Consciousness.*" Links to these articles will be posted on Blackboard.

Journals are due by the beginning of class (no later than 3P) on their due date, must be submitted via Blackboard, must be a Microsoft Word file (NOT Adobe/PDF or any other format), and must conform to the following APA style requirements:

- Times New Roman 12 font
- 1 inch margins all around
- 4-5 doubled spaced pages
- Header on each page: your first and last name in caps shifted all the way left, page number on same line shifted all the way right
- Title on first page: Journal No. 1, 2, or 3 (centered, bold)
- Indent first line of each paragraph
- Also consult Chapters 6 and 7 of APA Publication Manual for specific information about appropriate use of citations/crediting sources and the list of references.

Part of good academic practice and professional development is your ability to adhere to standards and requirements. If your journal isn't submitted on time or isn't formatted as specified above, **you will NOT receive credit.**

Your journals MUST address the following 5 points:

- 1) Describe in detail the main purpose of the report/article
- 2) Describe in detail what you thought was the most important aspect of the viewpoint(s) presented by the author(s)/participant(s)
- 3) Describe in detail which are the perspectives you consider are missing from the viewpoint(s) presented by the author(s)/participant(s)—focus on how the ecological approach may or not have been addressed/used well—whose viewpoints or interests aren't being represented, and what makes you think this would be an important viewpoint/interest to consider?
- 4) Describe in detail how you would agree with the author(s)/participant(s) and why
- 5) Describe in detail how you would disagree with the author(s)/participant(s) and why

If you use sources in addition to the ones provided on Blackboard, your Journal must include appropriate citations throughout the body of the Journal, and a Reference section at the end.

Exams. Instead of a midterm exam you will have two exams before the final. Each exam represents 20% of your final grade in this course. This is a content and concept heavy class, and from past experiences teaching this course I've learned it may be easier for students to do well if the material and the grading is broken up into two exams, versus one larger midterm. These exams may be comprised of short answer and/or fill-in type questions covering the material discussed in class up to that point.

If you are absent from class on the days of the exams, you will NOT be able to make-up the exams at another time, and you will NOT get any credit for this portion of your final course grade.

Cheating of any form will not be tolerated. At the time of the exam, there should be nothing on your desk, except for a pen or pencil, and you cannot wear hats. If you cheat during the exams your exams will be taken from you and you will be asked to leave the classroom. You

will NOT get any credit for the exams and your cheating will be reported to the University to be included in your permanent transcript.

Final Exam. The final exam for this class will be on Monday, December 5, 2016 from 8-10AM. The final exam represents 25% of your final grade in this course. It will may be comprised of short answer and/or fill-in type questions, and it will cover mostly material covered since Exam 2, but will also include key concepts covered prior to Exams 1 and 2.

If you are absent from class on this day, you will NOT be able to make-up the final exam at another time, and you will NOT get any credit for this portion of your final course grade.

Cheating of any form will not be tolerated. At the time of the final exam, there should be nothing on your desk, except for a pen or pencil, and you cannot wear hats. If you cheat during the final exam your exam will be taken from you and you will be asked to leave the classroom. You will NOT get any credit for the final exam and your cheating will be reported to the University to be included in your permanent transcript.

Grading

5% Attendance
10% Class activity participation
20% Assigned reaction journals
20% Exam 1
20% Exam 2
25% Final exam

It will be your responsibility to keep track of your grades in Blackboard. If you notice that a grade has been entered incorrectly, you must show the original assignment/exam with the correct grade to me as soon as possible, and no later than the last week of classes. After that point, any errors will stand in your final grade calculation.

You will be graded according to the grading criteria listed above. Do not ask to have your grade changed to the next highest grade at the end of the semester simply because you're just a few points away. Doing this would be unfair to the rest of the students. How would you feel if you discovered that an exception was made for another student, but not for you?

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use or close imitation of the work and writing of another person without authorization, and the representation of another person's work as your own, such as not appropriately crediting or citing the original author. If it is determined that any work you submit has been plagiarized from other sources you will fail the course, and I will recommend that a note of this be made in your permanent transcript. You are strongly encouraged to consult the APA Publication Manual to learn more about plagiarism, how to avoid it, and how to appropriately cite and reference works you will be using. You are welcomed to discuss with me or the TAs any concerns you have about plagiarism, as well as concerns about how to appropriately cite and reference works.

Miscellaneous

Students with Disabilities. If you require accommodations for access and participation in this course you must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at (312) 413-2103 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TTY).

Observance of Religious Holidays. *Campus Policy States:* The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations or requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

Incomplete Grades. University policy on incomplete grades is very strict and it's the policy that will be followed for this course. An incomplete grade will only be granted under the *most extreme circumstances*. Do not request to be considered for an incomplete grade unless the following conditions apply (taken from the Undergraduate Catalogue):

Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination; incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade. The IN (incomplete) grade may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The instructor must submit an Incomplete Report with the final grade roster for the IN to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by the time indicated on the report. In resolving the IN, the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report. An IN must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the occurrence, or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year after the occurrence. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the IN to the appropriate grade. If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an E for the final grade.

If you have any problems or concerns throughout the class, please discuss these with me or the TAs as soon as possible. Don't wait until the end of the semester, when it may be too late to consider options to resolve a matter. Feel free to write to me/TAs, call me/TAs, or schedule a meeting with me/TAs to consult about any problems or concerns.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Mon 8/22	Review syllabus and requirements Chapter 1: Introducing Community Psychology
	Wed 8/24	Chapter 1 Continued Class Activity 1
2	Mon 8/29	Chapter 2: The Development & Practice of Community Psychology
	Wed 8/31	Chapter 2 Continued Class Activity 2
3	Mon 9/05	LABOR DAY ~ NO CLASS
	Wed 9/07	Chapter 3: The Aims of Community Research
4	Mon 9/12	Chapter 3 Continued Class Activity 3
	Wed 9/14	Reaction Journal 1 DUE Chapter 4: Methods of Community Psychology Research Class Activity 4
5	Mon 9/19	Guest Speaker: Amanda Roy, PhD Environment, Development, and Health
	Wed 9/21	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-4)
6	Mon 9/26	Chapter 5: Understanding Individuals within Environments
	Wed 9/28	Chapter 5 Continued Class Activity 5

7	Mon 10/3	Chapter 6: Understanding Community
	Wed 10/5	Chapter 6 Continued Class Activity 6
8	Mon 10/10	Chapter 7: Understanding Human Diversity in Context
	Wed 10/12	Reaction Journal 2 DUE Chapter 7 Continued Class Activity 7
9	Mon 10/17	Chapter 8: Understanding Stress & Coping in Context
	Wed 10/19	Chapter 8 Continued Class Activity 8
10	Mon 10/24	EXAM 2 (Chapters 5-8)
	Wed 10/26	Chapter 9: Prevention & Promotion—Key Concepts
11	Mon 10/31	Chapter 9 Continued Class Activity 9-10
	Wed 11/2	Chapter 10: Prevention & Promotion—Implementing Programs
12	Mon 11/7	Chapter 10 Continued Class Activity 9-10 Continued
	Wed 11/9	Chapter 11: Empowerment & Citizen Participation

13	Mon 11/14	Chapter 11 Continued Class Activity 11-12
	Wed 11/16	Reaction Journal 3 DUE Chapter 12: Community & Social Change
14	Mon 11/21	Chapter 12 Continued Class Activity 11-12 Continued
15	Wed 11/23	Chapter 13: Program Evaluation & Program Development
	Wed 11/30	Chapter 14: Looking Ahead Class Activity 13 Review Chapters 8-14
16	Mon 12/5	FINAL EXAM: 8A-10A