STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Soc 440
Sociology of Community Development
Spring 2006
Call #7653

Professor   Office Hours   Class Meetings
Dr. H. D. Horton   MT 4-5:30   T 5:45-8:35
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Course Objectives

        The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the opportunity to learn the
theories, methods and practices of community development from a sociological perspective. The
course is divided into two components. Part one of the course involves an extensive review of
the literature of the field. This component of the course is traditional in the sense that it will
involve lectures, class discussion, (*intensive*) writing assignments and exams. This phase of the
course is essentially the first half of the semester and will be concluded at mid-term. Part two of
the course focuses on *applying* the theories and methods learned in part one to real-life projects
in the community. Students will be divided into teams to work on pre-established projects
designed by the professor. This will require that students physically work in the communities to
which they have been assigned. Part two of the course will be determined by the extent to which
the students have successful met the goals and objectives of the project.

        It is important to note that this course requires a considerable level of work and
commitment. Often students ask the question, "*What can I do with a Sociology degree?*" This
course answers that question by providing students with the experiences and skills that can lead
to careers in community development and/or a broad range of professional opportunities. Most
importantly, students will become part of an existing research project and will have an
opportunity to see first-hand how *Sociology* can make a difference in the world.

Texts:

Green, Gary Paul and Anna Haines. 2002. Asset Building & Community Development
Kretzmann, John and John McKnight. 1993. Building Communities from the Inside Out
Patillio-McCoy, Mary. 2000. Black Picket Fences.

Course Requirements

A. **Weekly Written Assignments**: Students will be required to submit written assignments. These assignments are to be approximately 2-3 typed pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font with 1-inch borders on both sides . Students will be required to incorporate readings from the text as well as lecture notes in their assignments. Students are *encouraged* to make use of the **_University's Writing Center_**. Poor grammar, spelling, etc. will negatively impact the student's grade.

B. **Weekly Journal**: Students will be required to keep a weekly journal on their thoughts and experiences relative to the course. Specifically, students will be expected to write about the application of skills, the community issues and problems that they encountered, issues that arise in their respective groups, guest speakers and their reflections on lessons learned.

C. **Group Participation**: Students will be divided into groups so as to facilitate in-depth discussions, elaboration and practice of specific skills, and the development of group projects. Each group will be supervised by a graduate student leader who will coordinate group activities. At the end of the first half of the semester, students will then be reassigned to specific *task groups* based upon their performances, demonstrated abilities and interests.

D. **Community Project**: In the second half of the semester students will be required to physically work *within* a designated community on a project that the professor has designed. The students will be assigned specific tasks on the overall project and will spend the second half of the semester completing the project. At the end of the semester, there will be a closing ceremony in the community where the students will make presentations to community members highlighting the accomplishments of the project.

E. **Exams:** There will be a mid-term and a final for this course. Both will be take-home exams and will be due at the next class session following distribution. Exams must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font. Late exams will be penalized one letter grade per day.

F. **Application of Sociology Prerequisites:** This is a writing-intensive course that is designed for _Sociology Majors only_. Therefore, it assumes that you have successfully completed Soc 220 (Research Methods), Soc 235 (Sociological Theory) and Soc 221 (Statistics). In addition, students should ideally have senior status. Students who have not satisfied all of the sociology prerequisites _or_ who are not seniors should consult with the professor on the advisability of taking this course.

G. **Assigned Readings and Class Attendance:** The assigned readings for this course are all required. For the most part, these readings are easily understood. Consequently, the instructor will spend little time repeating or summarizing what you are required to read. These materials will be discussed in class, and you are encouraged to raise questions for purposes of clarification and elaboration. Because much additional material will be provided in class, and because this material as well as assigned readings will be covered on exams, **_regular class attendance (90%) is necessary_** for a high level of performance and high grade. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed lecture notes, changes in course assignments, etc.

<u>Grading</u>

Exams   40%

Community Project   20%

Weekly Writing Assignments: 10%

Weekly Journal   10%

Group Participation   10%

Class Attendance   10%

<u>Grading Scale</u>

90+	A	86-87	B+	76-77	C+	66-67	D+	0-57 E
88-89	A-	80-85	B	70-75	C	60-65	D	
		78-79	B-	68-69	C-	58-59	D-	

<u>Course Outline</u>

I. **Introduction to Community Development**

   Green & Haines: Chapters 1 & 2.

   Horton: A Sociological Approach to Black Community Development
(www.albany.edu/~hdh).

   Kretzmann & McKnight: Chapter 1.

    Patillo-McCoy (in its entirety)

II. **The Process of Community Development and Community Organizations**

   Green & Haines: Chapters 3 & 4

   Kretzman & Mcknight: Chapters 2 & 3.

III. **Human and Social Capital**

Green & Haines: Chapters 5 & 6

Kretzmann & McKnight: Chapter 4

MID-TERM EXAM

IV. **Physical, Financial and Environmental Capital**

Green & Haines: Chapters 7-9

Kretzmann & McKnight, Chapter 5

V. **Sustaining Community Development**

Green & Haines: Chapters 10-12

Kretzmann & McKnight: Chapter 6

VI. **Implementation of the Class Community Project**

FINAL EXAM