



Spring 2014 Community Development & Neighborhood Planning (PLN 425)

Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:45-4:05PM, Arts & Sciences 121

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Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30pm, Wednesdays 4:15-5:45pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

Community development means different things to different people. For some, it is offering technical assistance to neighborhoods on how to identify needs and desires and develop and apply appropriate tried-and-true solutions. For others, it means struggling to increase neighborhood-based power in the face of domineering local institutions and oppressive structures, making demands and winning campaigns to correct inequalities. For still others, it means people coming together to help themselves plan for the future by building upon existing assets and strengths. Regardless of your outlook, community development is both a process – of building leaders, identifying assets and needs, and strategizing and implementing change through neighborhood planning – and an outcome – stronger leaders; increased social capital; action plans; new small businesses; affordable, quality homes; and living-wage jobs.

This course will examine multiple perspectives on community development, exploring the tensions between technical assistance, empowerment, and self-help/asset-based approaches. We will review government policies and the multiple players within the community development system, and assess several important areas of practice, including housing, economic development, health, education, sustainability and globalization. The class will also focus on neighborhood planning, its processes, and its outcomes, focusing on the City of Seattle's neighborhood planning program. Throughout the course, students will apply their new knowledge of community development & neighborhood planning to a neighborhood they choose.

(Prerequisite: Geog 125 or PLN 220)

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to equip students to be advocates for and planners of neighborhoods. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast technical assistance, empowerment, and self-help/asset-based approaches to community development and neighborhood planning, and debate which is most appropriate for addressing different issues and neighborhood contexts;
- Evaluate past community development and neighborhood planning efforts, assemble best practices from case studies, and apply lessons learned to new neighborhoods;
- Identify common policy problems, community development players, and obstacles facing the redevelopment of urban and rural neighborhoods, and debate planning solutions;
- Analyze and evaluate community data, plans, and processes, and present results in professional written, visual, and oral presentations.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are **four required books**, three of which are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, and on reserve at the University Library. The fourth booklet, and several assigned readings not in the required books, are available via **Electronic Reserves on Blackboard**.

- (1) **Robinson, Jr., Jerry W. and Green, Gary Paul. 2011.** Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice, and Service-Learning. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781412974622
- (2) **Jones, Bernie. 1990.** Neighborhood Planning: A Guide for Citizens and Planners. Chicago, IL: APA Planners Press. ISBN: 0918286670
- (3) **Diers, Jim. 2006.** Neighborhood Power: Building Community the Seattle Way. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 9780295984445
- (4) **Finn, S., Kamath, L., Brunn, D., & Powell, M. 2006.** *Residents at the Center: A Handbook on Community-Based Planning for Distressed Neighborhoods*. New Brunswick, NJ: Community Development Institute, Rutgers University and Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey. (**Available free through Electronic Reserves**)

This course uses **Blackboard** for online posting, submitting assignments, watching streaming videos, and general course communication. You can access it at <https://blackboard.albany.edu/webapps/login/>. Check the site frequently for announcements, resources, and instructions.

To watch several videos, you must have the free **Real Player**® installed on your computer. It is available for free download here: <http://www.real.com/realplayer/search>.

ASSIGNMENTS

Sign up on Blackboard before class on **Monday, January 27th** for one of the neighborhoods listed. Sign up is on first-come, first-served basis. You should thoroughly read through your selected neighborhood plan by the due date for Assignment #1 (2/10). **In-class workshops and instructional handouts will be provided** to assist students in completing each assignment. Assignments should be single-spaced in 12 point font and uploaded to Blackboard BEFORE class on the due date.

Assignment #1: Developing Your Community Profile (Due 2/10) *4-5 pgs with tables*

Read the Existing Conditions and/or Community Profile section of the neighborhood plan, and summarize them. Download, compile, and describe data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey about your selected neighborhood. Do conditions seem similar, better, or worse according to these current ACS data than described in the neighborhood plan? What other types of data, and information about the neighborhood, are included in your neighborhood plan? Why are these helpful to know about the community?

Assignment #2: Approach to Community Development (Due 2/24) *2-3 pgs*

Describe the 3 approaches to community development, assess which one(s) used in the neighborhood plan, and how appropriate they are in addressing community assets/needs.

Assignment #3: Prioritizing Practice (Due 3/26) *2-3 pgs*

Describe the areas of community development practice highlighted in the neighborhood plan, and analyze their appropriateness.

Assignment #4: Neighborhood Planning Process & Partners (Due 4/21) *3-4 pgs with figures*

Outline and analyze the neighborhood planning process and partners in your neighborhood.

Assignment #5: Final Evaluation of Neighborhood Plan (Due 5/14) *4-5 pgs*

Evaluate the components and content of the neighborhood plan. Present your recommendations for a plan update regarding (1) the community profile, (2) the approach to community development, (2) the areas of practice, (3) the planning process, and (4) partners.

Final Presentation (5/5, 5/7, or 5/14)

Present your recommendations to the class in a professional, polished 10 minute presentation in a concise, visually compelling way (video, poster, interactive website, PowerPoint, etc).

GRADING POLICY

Attendance: Attendance is not recorded, but critical to student learning and assignment completion. In-class activities further cumulative learning and feed into individual assignments. Last minute changes in topics, readings, speakers, etc. are sometimes unavoidable. If you miss

class, it is your responsibility to find out what happened by checking Blackboard for announcements and/or asking a classmate. Missing class is no excuse for being unaware of how to complete assignments and meet future deadlines.

- I will NOT review Workshop material with a student who missed the in-class Workshop unless s/he can provide full documentation for a medically or religiously excused absence.
- Students will receive a ZERO grade on their final presentation if they fail to attend ALL presentation sessions, except in the case of a medically or religiously excused absence.

Late Assignments: Submitting assignments on time reflects respect for your instructor and classmates, as well as a high level of effort. I will deduct one letter grade (i.e. from B+ to B) for each day (24 hours) an individual assignment is late—unless there are extraordinary circumstances that caused the delay (for which documentation is required).

Assignments are weighted as detailed below in calculating the final course grade.

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Assignment #1: Community Profile	2/10	10%
Assignment #2: Approach	2/24	10%
Assignment #3: Prioritizing Practice	3/26	20%
Assignment #4: Neighborhood Planning Process/Partners	4/21	20%
Assignment #5: Neighborhood Plan Evaluation	5/14	30%
Final Presentation	5/5, 5/7 or 5/14	10%
Total		100%

The following grading scale is used to translate final grades to letter grades.

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Letter Grade	Percent Range
A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	E	Less than 60%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The consequences for violating UAlbany's policies on academic integrity range from rewriting the assignment in question to expulsion from the university. Please familiarize yourself with the details of this policy, which will be enforced in this class: <http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm>. To better understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, take the free

Library tutorial **Plagiarism 101**: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html>. If you ever have a question about properly referencing the work of others within your writing and presentations, please ask me *before* you submit or present them.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Every effort will be made to accommodate those with special learning needs. Please notify me of any documented needs you may have within the first two weeks of class so we can work together to assure satisfactory arrangements. Assistance is available through the Disability Resource Center: <http://www.albany.edu/disability/> or (518) 442-5490.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	To Prepare for Class	Due Today
I. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE			
1/22	What is Community, and why Develop it?	N/A	
1/27	A Brief History	Read Keating 1999 & R&G 2, pp.11-28 ONLY	Neighborhood Sign-up
1/29	Workshop: Developing a Community Profile	Read Capital South Plan, Community Profile, pp.7-20 Watch America is Changing and So Is the Census	
2/3	Approach: Technical Assistance	Read R&G 4	
2/5	NO CLASS	Work on Assignment #1	
2/10	Approach: Empowerment	Read Warren 2008	Assignment #1
2/12	Approach: Self-help & Asset-based	Read R&G 5 & Haines 2009	
2/17	Workshop: Evaluating Approaches	Read Capital South Plan, Executive Summary & Introduction, pp.i-7	
2/19	Challenges: Urban	Read R&G 12 & Beauregard 2013	
2/24	Challenges: Rural	Read R&G 11	Assignment #2
2/26	Housing	Read Macedo 2009 Watch Building Stable Communities..to Fight Foreclosures	
3/3	Economic Development	Read Krumholz 1999	
3/5	Health	Read R&G 14 Watch <i>Social Policy in Concrete</i>	
3/10	Education	Read R&G 15	
3/12	Workshop: Prioritizing Practice	Read Capital South Plan, Stabilize the South End, pp.21-40	
3/17-21 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS			
3/24	Sustainability & Globalization	Read R&G 16 & 17	
3/26	Emerging Issues	Read R&G 18 Watch <i>Gaining Ground</i>	Assignment #3
II. NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING			

3/31	What is Neighborhood Planning?	Read Jones 1 & Finn et al. pp.5-17	
4/2	What is a Neighborhood Plan?	Read Jones 3	
4/7	How Do you Plan with Participation?	Read Jones 2; Finn et al. pp. 19-37	
4/9	Workshop: Community-Based Neighborhood Planning	Read Finn et al. pp.41-69	
4/14	UNIVERSITY CLASSES SUSPENDED		
4/16	Organizing as Planning	Read Diers 2-3	
4/21	Participatory Planning as Empowerment	Read Diers 6 & Sirianni 2007	Assignment #4
4/23	Self-Help as Empowerment	Read Diers 4 Watch <i>Fremont Neighborhood</i>	
4/28	Neighborhood Planning in Seattle: Lessons Learned	Read Diers 8-10	
4/30	Workshop: Evaluating Success	University of Washington 2008, pp.FG-1 to FG-39 & P-1 to P-11 ONLY	
5/5	Final Presentations		
5/7	Final Presentations		
5/14	Exam period 3:30-5:30PM; Final presentations		Assignment #5

ADDITIONAL READINGS ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE

- Beauregard, R.A. (2013). Strategic Thinking for Distressed Neighborhoods. In M. Dewar & J.M. Thomas (Eds.), *The City After Abandonment* (pp.227-243). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Haines, Anna. (2009). Asset-based Community Development. In R. Phillips & R. H. Pittman (Eds.), *An Introduction to Community Development* (pp.38-48). New York: Routledge.
- Keating, W. D. (1999). Federal Policy and Poor Urban Neighborhoods. In W. D. Keating & N. Krumholz (Eds.), *Rebuilding Urban Neighborhoods: Achievements, Opportunities, and Limits* (pp. 14-32). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Krumholz, N. (1999). Equitable Approaches to Local Economic Development. *Policy Studies Journal*, 21(1), 83-95.
- Macedo, J. (2009). Housing and community planning. In R. Phillips & R. H. Pittman (Eds.), *An Introduction to Community Development* (pp.249-265). New York: Routledge.
- Sirianni, C. (2007). Neighborhood Planning as Collaborative Democratic Design. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 73(4), 373-387.
- University of Washington. (2008). Planning for a Successful Process: Updating Seattle's Neighborhood Plans. Seattle: University of Washington. pp.FG-1 to FG-39 & P-1 to P-11 ONLY
- Warren, M. (2008). A Theology of Organizing: From Alinsky to the modern IAF. In J. DeFilippis & S. Saegert (Eds.), *The Community Development Reader* (pp. 194-203). New York, NY: Routledge.