Course Description

This course examines concepts and techniques of community participation in diverse democracy. It analyzes the changing context and core concepts of participation, major models and methods of practice, and practical techniques for involving people in organizations and communities. It assesses formal efforts by agencies to involve people in their proceedings, indigenous initiatives by groups to influence institutions and decisions, and their potential for community empowerment and civic engagement in democratic societies which value diversity as an asset.

The course assumes that if democracy is about the participation of the people, and the people are becoming more socially and culturally diverse, then the future of democracy is inseparable from its diversity. Special emphasis is placed on increasing involvement of underrepresented groups in economically disinvested areas.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the changing context and core concepts of community participation in diverse democracy;

2. Analyze major models and methods of participation practice;

3. Develop knowledge of specific skills to promote participation, e.g., assessing community conditions, designing the process, increasing intergroup dialogue, building constituency support;

4. Identify problems and issues of underrepresented groups in economically-disinvested areas; and

5. Recognize issues of ethics and values arising in the field.

Course Design

Responsibilities include readings, participation in discussions, written assignments, and individual and group exercises related to course materials. Guest speakers may be invited to address specific topics in areas of expertise. Assignments are due on scheduled dates unless arranged in advance.
Relationship of Course to Curricular Themes

**Multiculturalism and Diversity:** Students will develop the capacity to identify ways in which community participation can address race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, and other forms of stratification and disenfranchisement.

**Social Justice and Social Change:** Emphasis is placed on how community participation can strengthen social change and social justice.

**Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation:** The course will focus on how to prevent social problems and promote healthier communities in addition to treatment and rehabilitation activities.

**Behavioral and Social Science Research:** Relevant research from diverse social science disciplines and professional fields will contribute to understanding of empirically-based practice.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Opening and Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Core Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Core Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Mass Mobilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Neighborhood Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Defining the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Assessing Community Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Designing the Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Building Organizational Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Increasing Intergroup Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Building Constituency Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Participatory Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Strengthening Civic Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Education for Diverse Democracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading List

Core Concepts


Mass Mobilization


**Municipal Participation**


**Neighborhood Development**


**Defining the Community**


Assessing Community Conditions


Lum, Chapter 4.

Designing the Process


Building Organizational Capacity


Anner, J. Having the tools at hand: Building successful multicultural social justice organizations. In Adams, Chapter 95.

Increasing Intergroup Dialogue


Building Constituency Support


Participatory Evaluation


Strengthening Civic Engagement


Education for Diverse Democracy

Southwest Youth Collaborative. (n.d.). Celebrating a Decade of Struggle and Power. Chicago: Author.
