THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Course Syllabus: SW 650, Community Development
Fall 2002

Michael Appel
mjappel@umich.edu
734/769-5680 (h)
734/663-5858 x15 (w)
E-mail or call for appointment

1. Course description: This course will examine methods in which underserved community residents develop their own resources and services at the local level. Students will learn about the ways in which residents can take initiative and help themselves through community-based business and economic development, health and human services, popular education, and housing and neighborhood revitalization projects, with or without assistance by outside agencies or practitioners. Innovative examples of community development in urban and rural areas as well as community development that occurs among communities of interest, such as women, gay men and lesbians, or people with disabilities will be reviewed. Special emphasis will be placed on organizations which involve individuals and families in positive efforts to integrate human, social, economic, and community development to build upon the strengths and assets rather than focus solely on the problems of individuals.

This semester, the course will include a focus on housing development in neighborhood revitalization efforts. Students will also undertake a project using 2000 census data and other resources to document racial and economic residential shifts in Washtenaw County. The products of this work will be designed to contribute directly to local community development efforts.

2. Course objectives: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

A. Identify the changing context of community development, including the social, political, and economic forces affecting communities in larger urban areas.
B. Assess the needs and assets of low income urban communities as defined by the communities themselves.
C. Analyze the roles and responsibilities of community development workers as facilitators of efforts by communities to empower themselves.
D. Analyze organized efforts by community residents to take initiative and help themselves through community-based business and economic development, health and human services, housing and neighborhood revitalization, with or without assistance from outside agencies and practitioners.
E. Develop practical skills for understanding and working with racial and ethnic groups in culturally diverse communities (e.g., power structure analysis, finding and developing leaders, researching local history, and popular education).

F. Formulate in-depth strategy for community development with particular emphasis on development in large urban areas.

G. Recognize and address ethical and value issues which arise in community development practice situations.

3. Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes:

A. Multiculturalism and Diversity: Students will learn that community development is a process which involves individual cultural groups and attempts to build bridges across cultural boundaries.

B. Social Justice and Social Change: Emphasis will be placed on how the practice of community development can influence social change and strengthen social justice through community-building activities.

C. Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation: This course will focus on how to promote well-being and prevent problems through early intervention at the neighborhood or community level.

D. Behavioral and Social Science Research: This course will draw upon an extensive social science and research literature world wide.

4. Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values:

Ethical and value issues in all phases of community development will receive recognition and discussion in conjunction with course objectives. Examples of ethical concerns will include issues related to the social worker’s responsibility to clients and to promote the general welfare of society (e.g., the dilemmas imposed by area-wide efforts to construct a citywide health and human service facility that has harmful effects on the quality of life in a local neighborhood; or when local residents want to “keep to themselves” and develop a community-based health clinic rather than try the social worker’s idea to engage a major medical center in the process).

5. Course materials: The following four books are available at Common Language, 215 S. Fourth Ave. (between Washington and Liberty), 663-0036. Common Language is open Mon. - Sat. 10:30 am - 8:00 pm and Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm.

Building Communities from the Inside Out, Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight. Evanston, IL: The Asset-Based Community Development Institute, 1993.
A coursepack is available at Excel, 1117 S. University, 996-1500. There are three parts to the coursepack. Volume I and Volume II consist of materials available in hard copy only. The "Web-Available Readings" volume consists of materials that are downloadable for free (as of summer 2002) on various websites. Weblinks for these materials can be found on the Electronic Reserves page established by the Social Work Library at: http://www.lib.umich.edu/socwork/eresf02.html.

All four books and three volumes of the coursepack are on reserve at the Social Work library.

There is also a course homepage established by the School of Social Work Library. It contains links to sites of relevance to this course and will be helpful with some of the class assignments. Along with general useful research information, the site has sections that identify relevant journals, gentrification/displacement links, and additional community development web resources. The address of this site is: http://www.lib.umich.edu/socwork/sw650.html.

6. Course schedule and readings:
   Readings: Course Pack Volume I = (Vol.I); Course Pack Volume II = (Vol.II)
   Course Pack "Web-Available Readings" = (WebAv)
   Revitalizing Urban Neighborhoods = RUN
September 5: Introduction to Community Development and SW 650

September 12: Key Concepts/Gentrification & Displacement
Books: The Long Haul (Chs. 1-10)
CP: "A Map of the Community Development Field" (Vol.I, pg. 1)
"Displacement: The Dismantling of a Community" (Vol.I, pg. 21)
"There Goes the Neighborhood?" (Vol.I, pg. 79)
"Dealing with Neighborhood Change: A Primer on Gentrification and Policy Choices" (Parts I-IV) (WebAv, pp. 1 - 37)
Video: Adventures of a Radical Hillbilly

September 19: Key Concepts/Popular Education/Capital
Books: The Long Haul (Chs. 11-21)
CP: "Community Building Comes of Age" (Ex. Summary & Chs. 1-2) (Vol.I, pg. 81 - 131)
"The Myth of Social Capital in Community Development" (Vol.I, pg. 184)
Speaker: Documents/Map Librarians on using census data and mapping software

RESPONSE PAPER DUE ON "THE LONG HAUL"

September 26: Assets/Economic Development/Urban Neighborhoods
Books: RUN Part 1, Introduction and Chs. 1, 2, 4
"Unleashing New Resources" (Vol.II, pg. 269)
"Building Assets" (Vol.II, pg. 301)
"Seven Myths and Realities About IDAs" (Vol.II, pg. 369)
"Sharing the Wealth" Executive Summary (WebAv, pg. 81)

QUIZ ON FORMS OF COMMUNITY CAPITAL

October 3: Community Development in the context of Macro Practice
Books: RUN, chs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
CP: "The Whole Agenda" (WebAv, pg. 97)
"The CDC Model of Urban Redevelopment" (WebAv, pg. 123)
"After the Fall" and "Dennis West on ECI's Rise and Fall" (WebAv, pg. 145)
"East New York" (WebAv, pg. 153)
"Rowing the Boat with Two Oars" (WebAv, pg. 160)
Video: From the Bottom Up

October 10: CDC's
Books: RUN, chs. 10, 11,12
Streets of Hope, Chs. 1-5

October 17: Comprehensive Community Development
Books: Streets of Hope, Chs. 6-end of book
Video: Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street

RESPONSE PAPER DUE ON "STREETS OF HOPE"
October 24: International Development
Books: Building Communities from the Inside Out (Ch. 1)
CP: "Reclaiming the City" (WebAv, pg. 206)
   "Johannesburg Housing Company Annual Report 2001" (Vol.II, pg. 413)
Speaker: Taffy Adler, CEO, Johannesburg Housing Company

October 31: Asset Based Community Development
Books: Building Communities from the Inside Out (remainder of book)
Video: Video from series Mobilizing Community Assets

November 7: Faith-based Organizations
Books: RUN, chapter 9
CP: "Charitable Choice: Theological Perspective" (Vol.II, pg. 373)
   "Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church" (Vol.II, pg. 376)
   "The Episcopal Church of the Messiah" (Vol.II, pg. 383)
   Restoring At-Risk Communities, Perkins, John (ed.), chs. 1 and 8. (Vol.II, pg. 390)
Speakers: Denese S. Brown, MSW, Executive Director, POWER, and the Rev. Nile Harper,
   Director, Urban Church Research

November 14: CD Policy
Books: RUN, chs. 13-15
CP: "Dealing with Neighborhood Change: A Primer on Gentrification and Policy Choices"
   (Part V - end) (WebAv, pg. 38)
   "Community Building Comes of Age" (Ch. 3) (Vol.I, pg. 132)
   "The NIMBY Report" (WebAv, pg. 166)
   "Sustaining Community Power" (Vol.II, pg. 406)
   "Balancing Act" (Vol.II, pg. 410)

   JOURNAL REVIEW DUE

November 21: Smart Growth/Equitable Growth/Sustainability/Class reports
Readings: tba

November 28: THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS

December 5: Class reports
   FINAL PAPERS DUE
7. Grading

The assignments are due as described below:

- Response paper on "The Long Haul": The question will be handed out on September 12 in class and a 2-3 page written discussion will be due September 19 at class. Worth 10% of total grade.

- Quiz on forms of community capital: Short answer quiz on September 26 on the concepts of community capital discussed in class. Worth 10% of total grade.

- Response paper on "Streets of Hope": The questions will be handed out on October 10 in class and a 2-3 page written discussion will be due October 17 in class. Worth 10% of total grade.

- Journal or Website Review: 2-3 page written review of journal or website related to community development issues. The assignment will be handed out October 24 and may be turned in anytime through class on November 7. Worth 10% of total grade.

- "Anytime" response paper: A 2-3 page response paper is due on any week's reading (excluding topics in assigned response papers). This may be turned in anytime during the semester but no later than class on November 21. Worth 10% of total grade.

- Class report on demographic shifts including displacement, and racial and economic segregation and change. This assignment will build on materials read for September 12 and the library/data orientation provided on September 19. Work will be presented to class on November 21 and December 5. Final written papers due at class on December 5. Written paper worth 30% of total grade; class presentation worth 10% of total grade.

- Class attendance/participation: Worth 10% of total grade.