Title: Community Psychology
Course Number: 820:593:02
Meeting Times: Tuesday 1:15-4:00pm
Instructor: Judith Glassgold, PsyD
Location: A340

This course on Community Psychology is designed for students with a clinical focus who wish to learn more about the community psychology perspective and its applications. The class reading focuses on applications for diverse populations and social problems.

Course Objectives:

1. To increase understanding of the concepts which define the community psychology perspectives.

2. To increase understanding of the interplay of individual, small group, organizational, community, and societal factors as they affect psychological well-being, mental health, and human relationships.

3. To focus on understanding and designing applications for diverse populations and communities.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance - Students should attend all class sessions and be on time.

2. Class participation - Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss critically the assigned readings. At times the student will be asked to take responsibility to present a reading to the group.

3. Term projects - There are two options:
a) Take an educational setting, human service program, or work organization to which you have access. Analyze the program or setting from a community perspective. Identify ways in which the program or setting could be made more community oriented.

b) Take a current community issue, problem or unique population. Identify programs and policies that now exist to deal with the issue, or in some cases a lack of programs or policies. Analyze these programs, community issues, and policies and recommend programs or changes to existing programs based on the community perspective.

For either option, be sure to include a review of the literature. This review should include theory and research on the type of setting (for the first option) or topic (for the second), as well as work on relevant community psychology concepts.

The final product should be a paper, 10-20 pages in length, due at the last class.

Readings:

There is one textbook that is recommended: Levine, M., Perkins, D. D., & Perkins, D. V. (2005). Principles of Community Psychology (Third Edition). New York: Oxford University Press. It will be at the bookstore, is on reserve at the library, and is available used at various places.

All the other readings, journal articles, will be available on the Rutgers Sakai website https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal. You will be automatically enrolled via your RU email address. When you go to that site you will be given instructions on how to access the reserves. In certain classes, we will divide up the reading between individuals to facilitate discussion.

A. Introduction

Class 1 What is Community Psychology?
Reading:

Levine, Introduction, Skim Chapter 1, Chapter 3

Class 2 Understanding Ecological Frameworks

Reading:
Levine Chapter 4 & 5


Class 3 Applying Ecological Models

Reading:

Bianchi, Fernanda T; Zea, Maria Cecilia; Poppen, Paul J; Reisen, Carol A; Echeverry, John J. Coping as a mediator of the impact of sociocultural factors on health behavior among HIV-positive Latino gay men. Psychology & Health. 19(1) Feb 2004, 89-101.


Class 4 Applying Ecological Models: Understanding context and collaboration

Reading:
Levine, Chapter 10

Fabricio E. Balcazar, Teresa J. Garate-Serafini, and Christopher B. Keys. The Need for Action When Conducting Intervention Research: The Multiple Roles of Community


Class 5 Incorporating Diversity into Interventions


Ramirez-Valles, Jesus; Fergus, Stevenson; Reisen, Carol A; Poppen, Paul J; Zea, Maria Cecilia. Confronting Stigma: Community Involvement and Psychological Well-Being Among HIV-Positive Latino Gay Men. Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences. 27(1) Feb 2005, 101-119


Sherry L. Hamby The Importance of Community in a Feminist Analysis of Domestic Violence among American Indians. American Journal of Community Psychology


Class 6 Stress, coping and social support

Reading:
Levine, Chap 7, 9

Liang, Belle, Culture, Control, and Coping: New Perspectives on Social Support, American Journal of Community Psychology, 22:1 (1994)


**Class 7 Stress, coping and social support:**
*Applications*

Reading:
Zea, Maria Cecilia; Jarama, S. Lisbeth; Bianchi, Fernanda Trotta. Social support and psychosocial competence: Explaining the adaptation to college of ethnically diverse students. American Journal of Community Psychology. 23(4) Aug 1995, 509-531.


**Class 8 The Prevention & Promotion models**

Reading:
Levine Chapter 7 & 8


**Class 9** Applying Prevention & Promotion models to Health Psychology

Reading:
Breast Cancer Screening: Cultural Beliefs and Diverse Populations *Cassandra E. Simon.* Health & Social Work. 31(1) Feb 2006


**Class 10** The Prevention & Promotion models

*School-Based Interventions*

Reading:


Emancipatory Education Versus School-Based Prevention
In African American Communities Randolph G. Potts. American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 31, Nos. 1/2, March 2003

**Class 11** Community & Social Change: Part 1, Changing Settings & Community Resources

Reading:
Levine Chapter 10, 11, 12


**Class 12** Community & Social Change: Part II, Empowerment

Reading:


**Class 13** Community & Social Change: Part III Beyond Empowerment

Reading:
Levine Chapter 13


**Class 14** Community & Social Change: Part IV Social
Policy

Reading:


Class 15 International Perspectives


