RUTGERS -- THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Course Syllabus

Title: Community Psychology   Fall, 2009
Course Number: 820:593:01
Meeting Times: Tuesday, 1:15 – 4:00 pm
Instructor: William D. Neigher, Ph.D.
            973.660.3119
            neigher@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Mail: A 317

Guiding Principles:
“There is nothing as practical as a good theory.” [Kurt Lewin, 1952]
“In theory there is no difference between theory and practice; in practice there is.”

Major goals for the course:
1. To increase understanding of the concepts which define the community psychology perspective and the historical factors that led to their development.
2. To increase understanding of the interaction between individual, group, organizational, community, and societal factors as they affect psychological well-being and human relationships.
3. To learn how to design interventions based on community psychology perspectives.

Course Objectives:
1. Understand the development, concepts, theory, principles, methods and values of community psychology;
2. Learn and model skills and competencies for community practice;
3. Learn how to find and use resources;
4. Understand community intervention for program development;
5. Learn and practice team collaboration skills;
6. Understand funding: accountability with other’s money; and
7. Learn leadership and management core skills and values.
Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. **Attendance** - Attend all class sessions, and be on time please.

2. **Class participation** - Come to class prepared to discuss critically the assigned readings. Full involvement in class activities also is expected.

3. **Written assignments** - There will be two short papers. The directions for each will be posted on the Sakai site. The first is due **October 13**. The second is due **November 24**.

4. **Shared responsibilities** - Teaching and learning are both dynamic concepts; I need your continuing feedback to help make the course achieve our goals [and be enjoyable!] By Monday of each week please send me a short email with:
   
   - Text or reading content with **most interest** [and why];
   - Text or reading content most **unclear or troubling** [and why]; and
   - One “**great question**” for class discussion that compares or contrasts themes.

5. **Course evaluation** - Grades will approximate the following:
   
   - Class participation  20%
   - Weekly emails   10%
   - Mid-term exam    15%
   - Two short papers 25%
   - Team projects    30%

6. **Team Projects** – The course has an “applied” emphasis: during the semester four teams will work on a community intervention of their selection, from needs assessment through funding to program evaluation.

7. **Class format** – The first half of each class will be for lecture, discussion, debate and “shared learning.” After a break the second half will be for workshops, skills development, videos, guest speakers, and Team Project breakout sessions.

Text and reading materials:

There is one textbook to purchase: Dalton, J.H., Elias, M., and Wandersman, A. (2007). *Community Psychology: Linking individuals and communities (Second Edition).* Belmont, California: Wadsworth. This text comes with internet access to a number of online community psychology journals [Infotrac]. You will receive a login access code.

Most other readings will be available online. The ones marked with an asterisk [*] are interesting, but optional.

The schedule is below:
# Assignment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic and readings</th>
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| 9/1/09  | **Course Overview, Defining the field, Internet resources workshop**  
The Community Tool Box  http://ctb.ku.edu |
| 9/15    | **Community Psychology: Historical Perspectives**  
Dalton and associates Chapters 1 and 2  
| 9/22    | **How the field developed**  
Dalton and associates Chapter 3  
| 9/29    | **Community Psychology Research and Methods**  
Dalton and associates Chapter 4  
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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| 10/6   | Community Psychology Program Development and Evaluation | Dalton and associates Chapter 14  
| 10/13  | Individuals and their Environment          | Dalton and associates Chapter 5  
| 10/20  | Understanding Community                    | Dalton and associates Chapter 6  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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* Nation, M., Wandersman, A., Seybolt, D., Crusto, C., Kumpfer, K., |
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**Prevention and Promotion 2: Applications**


### 11/24  
**Prevention and Promotion 3: Implementation**

Dalton and associates Chapter 11


### 12/1  
**Social Change**

Dalton and associates Chapters 13 and 15


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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>TEAMS 1 AND 2 PROJECT PRESENTATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>TEAMS 3 AND 4 PROJECT PRESENTATION; “VISIONS” OF THE FUTURE</td>
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