The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus and to make appropriate updates.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
Communities throughout America are being confronted with a number of significant changes. However, various regions and communities in the US do not experience these shifts in the same way.

This course is designed to explore some of the past, present, and emerging issues confronted by urban and rural communities across the US, while also examining various strategies and concepts used to confront these issues. Special emphasis will be placed on the dimensions of community development that are necessary for increasing the local capacity needed for improving quality of life.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:
1. Explain the major theoretical approaches to community development.
2. Identify major contributors within community development efforts.
3. Compare/contrast different theoretical approaches to community development.
4. Describe the impacts of different forms of capital on community development efforts.
5. Articulate the issues faced by rural and urban communities, especially as it relates to those undergoing transition.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**
**Textbook**
Each student will have two (2) textbooks for this class.

- **Primary Textbook (required for all students)**

- **Secondary Textbook (choose one based on your interest area)**

**Access to Internet Resources**
This course utilizes SAKAI for access to class grades and additional reading materials.

**Other Resources**
Consistent access to the *APA Manual* (6th ed.) is mandatory. All assignments that utilize referenced materials must use the citation method (in-text and references) outlined in the 6th edition of the *APA Manual.*

**COURSE POLICIES**
**Courtesy:** Basic courtesy is expected from all the members of this course.

- **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.:** The most effective way to communicate with me and others in this class is by using a courteous and respectful tone. More can be accomplished when emotions are not involved. If you have a question or concern about some aspect of this course (content, grades, group work), please send me an email and schedule a time for us to talk. I will be more than happy to discuss all the options available with someone who respectfully approaches the situation.

---

1 The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus and to make appropriate updates.
• **Make punctuality a priority:** I look forward to seeing you at the start of each class! If you know you will be late (or absent), please send me an email to that effect. Also, if you know you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins and then quietly leave when you must go, minimizing the level of disruption to the class.

• **In-Class Technology:** Though many interesting pieces of technology exist, please limit your use of them during our time together so that we can all focus on learning. On most days, I ask that your phone be on silent or off during class and put away during class time. Please discuss any exceptional needs to this rule with the instructor prior to class. Laptops, tablets, or e-readers should be used for class purposes only. Students who disrupt the classroom environment with inappropriate technology use will be asked to leave.

**Contacting the Instructor:** Please don’t use the SAKAI mailbox; instead, use my UF email address (jlgould@ufl.edu). Doing so benefits you, since I’ve set up my UF account to also appear on my phone if I happen to be away from my desk (SAKAI has/will not). Also, please note the stated timeframe in which I will respond to emails: **standard office hours (8 AM – 5 PM).** This timeframe means that if you email me at 9:00 PM do not expect a response before 8:00 AM the next morning. This will require greater planning on your part (and provides less room for procrastination).

**Attendance:** Attending class on a regular basis provides the best opportunity for success in this course. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester (see the GRADING section for more details). Requirements for class attendance and any/all assignments in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

**Late Assignments:** You are expected to complete all assignments within the course during the timeframe specified. Assignments are due in class on the dates listed in the syllabus, with the following exceptions:

- University-excused absence – You must provide the instructor a written notice of excused absence before your absence. All work is due at the next scheduled class following your absence.
- Medically-excused absence – You must provide a written notice of excused absence immediately after your return to class. All work is due at the next scheduled class following your absence, unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.
- Late assignment option – You may submit one late assignment request by email this semester. The email must be sent PRIOR to the class in which the assignment is due. Your assignment must then be submitted within 5 calendar days of the original due date. Failure to submit within 5 calendar days will result in a grade of zero.

**Academic Integrity:** Any assignments that you submit must be original works authored by you as an individual student in the course. Your thoughts are unique and valuable, and written assignments provide you with an opportunity to share your insights about our class topics with me. Please remember, that as a result of the registration process at the University of Florida, any enrolled student has acknowledged the following:

> ...the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action...

and have agreed to the Honor Pledge:

> We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

Furthermore, on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

> On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.

For more information about the University of Florida Student Honor Code, visit the Dean of Students website: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

---

**GRADING**

Your grade is a direct result of the effort that you put into this course. Each assignment has a possible point value attached to it. You will earn points as you successfully complete each assignment. These points will accumulate to create your final score (see point ranges below for associated letter grade).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>My Score</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Case Study Part 1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Case Study Part 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Case Study Part 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Friday, 2/28</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, 4/23</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
<td>out of 250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 1000-918; A- = 917-833; B+ = 832-751; B = 750-668; B- = 667-583; C+ = 582-501; C = 500-418;  
C- = 417-333; D+ = 332-251; D = 250-168; E ≤ 167

This grading scheme is consistent with the university’s established grading policy and scheme that can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

**SPECIFICS ABOUT EACH ASSESSMENT**

**Attendance & Participation (150 points):** Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester (15 days @ 10 points per day). To receive credit for each day’s activities, plan to be an active participant. This means you must participate in the discussion by positively contributing your thoughts and questions. You will not receive points for days missed. You may also lose points for being more than five minutes late, at the discretion of your instructor.

**Community Case Study (300 points):** You will conduct a case study based on a community in your area of interest. A rubric will be provided during the second week to provide greater detail on expectations. For Part 1 and Part 2, each paper will be between 5-7 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margin), and must include appropriate references and citations (from your secondary textbook as well as other journal articles, books, university resources, etc.). A reference section must be included and must follow the APA Manual (6th ed.) for citing references. Plan to visit the UF Writing Center if you are unsure how to cite references properly or to brush up on your academic writing skills.

- **Part 1 (75 points):** Part 1 will serve as an overview of the community. You will develop a profile of the selected community, identifying major community issues as well as community assets.

- **Part 2 (75 points):** Part 2 continues the exploration of your chosen community. You will research how the community has attempted to resolve one of the issues that you identified in Part 1. You will discuss topics such as leadership and community participation.

- **Part 3 (150 points):** Part 3 gives you an opportunity to correct any issues with Part 1 and Part 2. You will also be asked to incorporate what you have learned from your secondary textbook into the final draft. These contributions will include how these issues may/may not be unique to your type of community, as well as recommendations for addressing future problems.

**Exam 1 (250 points):** The midterm exam is designed to evaluate your understanding of the broad concepts and theories covered during the first half of the semester. A short Exam Review will be provided during the previous class period (Feb 26th). The format of the exam may include fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, true/false, and essay questions.

**Exam 2 (250 points):** The final exam will cover material from the second half of the semester. A short Exam Review will be provided during the previous class period (April 21st). The format of the exam may include fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, true/false, and essay questions.

**Extra Credit Opportunities**
Extra credit opportunities will be given at the discretion of the instructor. However, in order to be eligible for extra credit, you must have a perfect attendance grade.
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University rules and policies, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Student Disabilities:** The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**University of Florida Counseling Services:** Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- **University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575**
  - www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Training Programs
  - Community Provider Database

- **Career Resource Center, First Floor J.W. Reitz Union, 352-392-1601**
  - www.crc.ufl.edu

  Your instructor may also be able to help you locate the assistance you need.