FYC3401 Introduction to Social and Economic Perspectives on Community

Fall, 2025
In Class Lectures and Discussion, Monday and Wednesday Period 2 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM
Online Individual Assignments and Team Project Meetings, Friday Period 2 8:30 – 9:20 AM
3 credit hours

Instructor

Dale Pracht, PhD

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Preferred contact method: CANVAS email, by appointment

Schedule appointment: https://fycsadvising.acuityscheduling.com

Zoom or in-person office hours, Wednesday, 2:30-3:30 PM, 3005 McCarty Hall D

Zoom office hours, Friday, Period 2 8:30 AM- 9:20 AM (To Provide Team Project Assistance)

Teaching Assistant

Isabella Alobele

G086A McCarty B

Preferred contact method: CANVAS email, by appointment

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In person office hours Monday, 2:30 – 5 PM, G086A McCarty B

Course Description

Introduces the study of community in American society. Addresses the theoretical underpinnings of the concept of community and explores changes that have affected urban and rural communities.

Course Learning Objectives

Identify the interaction between youth, families, and the communities they live in and how characteristics of communities' impact social processes.

Describe the roles and functions of communities.

Reflect on current issues facing contemporary communities.

Identify one's interest, abilities, and skills as individual assets to use in evaluating and assisting communities in learning to help themselves.

Define community capacity building, human capital, social capital, physical/built capital, financial capital, environmental/natural capital, political capital, and cultural capital.

Apply the capacity building concept to analyze contemporary communities' level of commitment, ability to solve problems, and assess available assets and resources.

Course Overview and Purpose

This course will include lectures, discussions, small group activities, in-class exercises, written assignments, two "in class" individual case studies, ten team accountability updates, and team-based Community Success Story Final Project.

Course Prerequisites

FYC 3001

Textbooks and Learning Materials

Required textbook and APA Manual is provided through UF Course Reserves

Green, G., & Haines, A. (2016). Asset building & community development. SAGE Publications, Inc, https://doi.org/10.4135/9781483398631

Access to the APA Manual (7th ed.) is recommended. Any assignments that utilize referenced materials must use the citation method (in-text and references) outlined in the 7th edition of the APA Manual.

Readings: In addition to the required textbook the instructor will provide supplemental podcasts, media sources, readings from other textbooks, research papers, journal articles and contemporary publications that will be used to enhance the student's understanding of concepts and issues discussed in the course. PDF files for these readings will be uploaded to CANVAS and will be housed in Weekly Modules.

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials."

Other Resources: This course utilizes CANVAS for all course access including the online component, weekly course schedule, additional materials, announcements, and course grades.

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with UF grading policies.

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Community Success Story Project	300	30
Online 1 Reflection	50	5
Online 2 reflection	50	5
Online 3 Reflection	50	5
Online 4 Reflection	50	5
Case Study 1	200	20
Case Study 2	200	20
Team Participation (10@ 5 Pt. each)	50	5
Individual Team Project and Presentation Contribution	50	5

Grading Scale

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Grade	Points	Percentage
A	930-1000	93-100
A-	900-929	90-92.9
B+	870-899	87-89.9
B	830-869	83-86.9
B-	800-829	80-82.9
C+	770-799	77-79.9
C	730-769	73-76.9
C-	700-729	70-72.9
D+	670-699	67-69.9
D	630-669	63-66.9
D-	600-629	60-62.9
S	<600	<60

Assignments

Team Community Success Story (300 points)
Each class team will write and present a Community Success Story
Community success as well as tragic community stories are often features in major media outlets. Some stories are so in-depth that it often seems like you are reading an ethnographic study. Storytelling is one way to identify community capacity, community assets and capitals, as well as communicate community issues, needs and barriers. Through this process students will learn a great deal about one community they select to research as well as a little about multiple communities from the in-class assignments, discussions, and listening to the stories from their peers.

Examples of both tragic and community success stories will be provided from media sources, and teams will work together throughout the semester in both analyzing stories and telling your selected community success story in a final paper and class presentation. As a team, you will be looking at some stories and examples provided for you in class throughout the semester that tie to capacity building and community assets and capital as well as have an opportunity to select your own community success story to write about and present to the class as your final project.

This interactive and engaging class exercise will have us relating contemporary communities to the textbook chapters making the written material come alive as we explore interactions with families, youth while applying the community capacity building process. This includes what the author included in the story and what is the behind-the-scenes information (the who, what, when, where, and why) Who authored the story? Which media did it come out in? Why this community to focus on? Where was it and when did the story come out? Analyzing stories like these can not only help us understand the goals of the story but also help us learn about the content of the story itself.

4 Online papers. (50 pts each for total 200 points)
Students will prepare short 1-2-page reflections based on assignments for their Friday, in class/online sessions. See schedule below for when these assignments are due.

Case Study 1 (200 points)
The Case Study will be based on class readings and classroom discussion. You will be provided a real-life community case study and will use material that you have learned up to this point to provide your answer to the real-life community case study.

Case Study 2 (200 points)
The Case Study will be based on class readings and classroom discussion. You will be provided a real-life community case study and will use material that you have learned since completing Case Study 1 to provide your answer to the real-life community case study.

Team accountability and Success (100 points)
Team accountability and success will consist of two elements. The first includes 10 weekly team updates at 5 pts each in which one member of your team will provide an update via CANVAS on select Fridays for a total of (50 points). A part of this update will include who worked together on the team project that week to keep the team accountable throughout the semester and the duration of the team project. The second will consist of participation in the group community success story presentation and paper. There will be a final peer evaluation by each group member (25 points) and well as instructor evaluation of the in-class team and individual presentations (25 points).

Weekly Course Schedule

Schedule may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please refer to announcements and updates that will be provided in CANVAS.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings & Materials	Assignments & Due Dates
1	F 8/22	*Syllabus Day:* *Course Overview*	**CANVAS Module 1** Online Resources provided The Role of Assets in Community-Based Development (G&H-Chapter 1)	
2	M 8/25	Individual and community assets	**CANVAS Module 2** Online Resources provided	
	W 8/27			
	F 8/29		Community Sustainability (G&H-Chapter 3)	**Work Online/Individual Assignment** **Online Assignment 1** Identify individual interests, skills, abilities, and experiences (Individual Assets)
3	M 9/1	**Labor Day**	**Holiday**	**Class Does Not Meet**
	W 9/3	Community Sustainability	**CANVAS Module 3** The Community Development Process (G&H-Chapter 4)	**Online Assignment 1 Due** Identify individual interests, skills, abilities, and experiences (Individual Assets) **Project teams assigned**
	F 9/5			**Work Online** **Begin Online Assignment 2:** **What is Community?** **Team Project** **Team Update One Due**

4	M 9/8		**CANVAS Module 4**	
	W 9/10	Community Development Process	The Role of Community- Based Organizations (G&H-Chapter 5)	**Begin Online Assignment 3**
	F 9/12	Team Project		**Work Online Team Project Team Update Two Due**
5	M 9/15		**CANVAS Module 5**	**Online Assignment 2 Due**
	W 9/17	Community Based Organizations	Human Capital (G&H- Chapter 6)	
	F 9/19	Team Project	Online Resources provided	**Work Online Team Project Team Update Three Due**
6	M 9/22	Community Case Study Evaluation #1 –	**CANVAS Module 6**	**Work online**
	W 9/24	Human Capital	Social Capital (G&H- Chapter 7)	
	F 9/26	Team Project		**Work Online Team Project Team Update Four Due**
7	M 9/29		**CANVAS Module 7**	
	W 10/1	Social Capital	Physical Capital (G&H- Chapter 8)	Begin Online Assignment #4
	F 10/3	Team Project		**Team Update Five Due**
8	M 10/6		**CANVAS Module 8**	**Work Online Community Case Study Evaluation** **Oline Assignment #3 Due**

	W 10/8	Physical/Built Capital	Financial Capital (G&H- Chapter 9)	**Work Online Community Case Study Evaluation #1 Due**
	F 10/10	Team Project	Online Resources provided	**Work Online Team Project Team Update Six Due**
9	M 10/13	Financial Capital	**CANVAS Module 9**	
	W 10/15		Political Capital (G&H- Chapter 11)	
	F 10/17	**Homecoming**	**Holiday**	**Class Does Not Meet**
10	M 10/20	Political Capital	**CANVAS Module 10**	
	W 10/22		Natural Capital Environmental Capital (G&H-Chapter 10)	
	F 10/24			**Work Online Team Project Team Update Seven Due**
11	M 10/27	Natural/Environmental Capital	**CANVAS Module 11**	**Team Project Team Update Eight Due** **Online Assignment #4 Due**
	W 10/29		Cultural Capital (G&H- Chapter 12)	
	F 10/31	Team Project	Online Resources provided	**Work Online Team Project Team Update Nine Due**

12	M 11/3		**CANVAS Module 12**	
	W 11/5	Cultural Capital	Food, Energy and Community (G&H- Chapter 13)	
	F 11/7	Team Project	Online Resources provided	**Work Online Team Project**
13	M 11/10		**CANVAS Module 13**	
	W 11/12	Food, energy, and community	Natural Disasters (G&H- Chapter 14) Pg. 341-346 & 348-359	
	F 11/14			Work Online Team Project **Team Project Team Update Ten Due**
14	M 11/17	Natural Disasters	**CANVAS Module 14**	
	W 11/19	During class Community Case Study Evaluation #2	During class Community Case Study Evaluation #2	**Work Online: Community Case Study Evaluation #2**
	F 11/21			Work Online Team Project
15	M 11/24	**Thanksgiving Break**	**Holiday**	**Class Does Not Meet**
	W 11/26	**Thanksgiving Break**	**Holiday**	**Class Does Not Meet**
	F 11/28	*Thanksgiving Break*	**Holiday**	**Class Does Not Meet**
16	M 12/1	*Team Presentations*	*Team Presentations*	*Team Presentations*
	W 12/3	*Team Presentations*	*Team Presentations*	**Success Story Team Peer Evaluation Due Due**

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See
https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact UMatterWeCare for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university 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 policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/ | 352-392-4357