

**Syllabus—Principles and Processes of Community Development
Master of Arts in Social Justice & Community Development**

Course # IPS 423-001

Course title: Principles and Processes of CD

Course Offered: Saturdays, 1 PM – 3:30 PM **(NOTE: Due to the Saturday schedule, the first class will be on 9/11 and the final class will be on 12/11.)**

Course Location:

Faculty Contact Information: Susan Rans, 312-429-6785, srans@luc.edu

Required Reading:

Reveille for Radicals, Saul D. Alinsky
Building Community from the Inside Out, John Kretzmann and John McKnight
Streets of Hope, Peter Medoff and Holly Sklar
Public Religion and Urban Transformation, Lowell Livezey, ed.

Plus a variety of articles selected for their relevance to the topics and for their timeliness. These will change from class to class.

Recommended Reading:

No More Throw Away People, Edgar Cohn
Bowling Alone, Robert B. Putnam

Plus regular review of several internet resources on Community Development issues.

Catalog Course Description : This class focuses introductory attention on the topics that will later be expanded in the Community Development concentration. The purpose of the course is to establish the “common language” of community developers, so it will consist of reading the basic texts in the field, and gauging student understanding of them. The class will also examine current issues facing urban communities—housing, economic development and sustainability.

Course Objectives:

- To familiarize students with principles of Community Organizing, Community Building and Community Development

- To show how faith communities are involved in each of these areas of community development
- To introduce the major literature of the field
- To show these principles in action (and in possible conflict) in Chicago neighborhoods
- To challenge students to identify their interests in the field.

Course Learning Outcomes:

As stated earlier, this class is the opportunity not only to examine the core ideas and issues of community development through examination of classic texts/films, etc. but also to create a common language for beginning students. The creation of a common language should also lead to the creation of a learning community that can carry on from this intro course. Students should be able to discuss the major principles with confidence, write about them clearly, and engage each other in a collegial manner.

Assignments and Methods of Delivery:

Students will be required to:

- 1) demonstrate knowledge of assigned reading every week;
- 2) participate in a small group presentation related to topics in the class;
- 3) write and present a final paper (10-12 pages) analyzing the principles of Community Development and relating them to the student's interests in Community Development, due the last class.

Evaluation of Learning:

Student participation:	40% total course grade
Group project:	30% total course grade
Final Paper:	30% total course grade

Course Policies:

- **Timely attendance and participation** are the most important requirements of this course. Any absence without prior notification and without good reason will affect course grade.
- **Completion of all reading assignments** is essential, as the class depends on grasping the material therein.
- **Completion of written assignments** in a timely fashion is required. Late completion of assignments will affect grade, and may lead to an Incomplete.
- **Participation in discussion and respect for diversity of opinion and experience** is essential in community building and therefore essential in this class.

- Breaks will be given during class; **all cell phones must be turned off until breaks.**
- Students with disabilities should let the instructor know any way in which you may need support to do assigned classwork. For overall support, please see the Loyola Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at www.luc.edu/sswd
- **The Chicago Manual of Style** will be the accepted format for written work. See www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html More discussion of written work will take place in class.
- Please note that **academic integrity** will be the rule in this class. For a discussion of plagiarism and example of such, see www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html

Schedule of Class Periods and Outline of Course Topics/Weekly Assignments:

Session 1

We'll spend this day doing a bit of introduction, organizing, and community building. Come prepared to talk about your self and your ideas. We'll also spend some time organizing our group projects and discussion topics and generally building some community.

Session 2

Saul Alinsky posed a challenge to those who believe in community that still resonates today. No organization can avoid staking out a position relative to Alinsky's work, and all community development thinking pays homage to him in some way. We'll jump into the world of Alinsky—discussing his groundbreaking work, *Reveille for Radicals*.

READ: *Reveille for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky

Session 3

Today we will examine John McKnight's critique of traditional ways of viewing poor communities and the corresponding necessity for "professional helpers".

READ: Selections from *The Careless Society: Community and Its Counterfeits* by John McKnight (To be supplied)

Session 4

John McKnight's critique in *The Careless Society* has led to one of the most exciting models for Community Development operative today. We'll discuss Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Also, using one of the tools of ABCD, the capacity inventory, we'll do some community-building of our own.

READ: *Building Community from the Inside Out* by John Kretzmann and John McKnight

Session 5

How one neighborhood successfully used both of these strategies is presented in the story of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Boston. We'll discuss Streets of Hope and view the DSNI video.

READ: *Streets of Hope* by Peter Medoff and Holly Sklar

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Now we will turn to three major issue areas for communities as they try to control their futures—housing, economics and sustainability.

Session 6

So much is tied up in the issues of housing—lending policy, affordability, discrimination, access to jobs, the dismantling of public housing. We will try to focus on all of it today.

READ: Selections from The Rehab Network and others to be supplied.
GROUP PRESENTATION DUE

Session 7

Not unlike housing, economic development can mean any of a variety of approaches—job creation and development, training, financial literacy, commercial development, lending and saving.

READ: Selections on co-production, micro-lending and others to be provided.
GROUP PRESENTATION DUE

Sessions 8 & 9

Successful community development can only take place when communities control the pace and size of technology and infrastructure. Today we will examine the struggle for sustainable community, a buzzword that includes environmental and economic health and values place at the core of community.

READ: Selections from sustainability organizations and other readings, all to be supplied.

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Session 10

Using the term 'faith-based community development' makes it sound as if there is a singular approach to communities exercised by churches. But, the truth is that there are as many faith paths to community as there are churches. Today we will examine a few and discuss their implications.

READ: Selections from *Public Religion and Urban Transformation*
GROUP PRESENTATION DUE

Sessions 11 & 12

Presentations of student visions (Final Papers Due).

Evaluation of Learning:

Student participation:	40% total course grade
Group project:	30% total course grade
Final Paper:	30% total course grade