

Fall 2016

# Community Development

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## **Community Development**

University of South Florida

Fall 2016

Tuesday 6:30 -9:15 PM

SOC 131

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Dr. Elizabeth Strom

SOC 008

*Office hours by appointment, scheduled via e-scheduler (look for tab under “teaching and learning” on Canvas).*

This course introduces students to the field of community development with a primary focus on the US, and on communities that have suffered from decades of disinvestment and the efforts of their residents to revitalize them. The approach is interdisciplinary, weaving together different academic perspectives. It is applied, focusing on the salient issues facing current efforts of community development in the Tampa area. Finally, the course will apply the principals of the service-learning pedagogy working with a local government or community organization or on a community project.

### **Goals and Learning Outcomes**

This course helps students gain the knowledge, understanding, skills, and values necessary to comprehend urban communities and contribute to their development. Students will gain substantive knowledge of US urban communities, with a focus on low income communities, and the public policies that have created them. Students will gain an understanding of social, economic and political change at the local level, and gain an appreciation for diversity, social responsibility and grassroots activism. At the end of the semester, students will have acquired and developed the ability to carry out community-based research; will have developed and improved oral and written communication skills, and will have developed and improved the capacity to work constructively with other students and community partners.

### **Assigned Readings**

Required text: *Asset Building and Community Development* 4th edition, by Gary Paul Green and Anna Haines, Sage Publishers. Available at USF Bookstore.

Other assigned readings available through Canvas, or through the USF library’s on-line subscriptions.

Regular reading of local issues in the Tampa Bay Times as well as sites like <http://www.planetizen.com/> and <http://www.citylab.com/>.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Because the class is experiential in nature, class attendance and participation are expected. Active learning requires more than regular class attendance; it requires that each student participate fully in all aspects of the course, prepare fully for each class meeting, and complete all assignments on time. Good discussions occur when each participant has thought about

themes and issues from the readings, and brings ideas and questions to class. Students who are absent from class will not be able to make up any missed in-class exercises/assignments.

## Written Assignments

### a. Quality of writing

A strong emphasis will be placed on the quality of your oral and written expression throughout the semester. Students will be expected to communicate at a graduate level in both media. Graduate students should be able to understand the required readings, describe their key points, apply the knowledge from these readings to other situations, and demonstrate creative and critical thinking. Graduate students should have a good grasp of grammar and spelling, and be able to write a well-organized essay with well-structured sentences. Students who are not able to write at the graduate level are advised to consult the USF Writing Studio (<http://www.lib.usf.edu/writing/>)

### b. Grading

In this class, each assignment or quiz is awarded points. For quizzes, you get a point for each correct question. For exams and papers, I will provide a rubric indicating how points are awarded. At the end of the semester, your points will be tallied and your grade calculated based on the percentage of total points you earned. *You will also earn half a point for each class you attend in full.* From time to time I will let students know about lectures and other events which you can attend and on which you can report to earn additional points.

Assignment point value:

Quizzes: There are 9 quizzes based on each week's reading; each quiz has four questions, each question is worth 1 point.

Economic and Demographic Base of the City: 5 points (3 for paper, 2 for discussion board)

Midterm Exam: 10 points

Final Exam: 10 points

Final Project Deliverable (group project): 10 points

Final Project Oral presentation (group project): 3 points

Final individual paper: 10 points

### c. Overview of assignments (see Canvas for further details)

1. ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC BASE OF THE CITY **due August 30 via Canvas.** See Assignment sheet. 5 points.
2. Midterm Exam: 2 essays on readings through Week 6. Exam goes live to students on Friday October 7 at noon; must be submitted as a Word or PDF file by **Tuesday October 11 at 11:59 pm. 10 points**
3. Final Exam: 2 essays on all readings, with an emphasis on those after Week 6. Exam goes live to students at noon on December 2, due on Tuesday **December 6 at 11:59 pm. 10 points**

4. Final project (group) Each student will complete a service-learning project in partnership with the City of Palmetto, in Manatee County. We will work in groups, with each group taking responsibility for a different aspect of the project. Students can indicate their preference for research groups but the instructor will make the group assignments. We will discuss the format and due dates for final reports and presentations during the semester. The final project will include a deliverable (report or something similar) worth 10 points and an oral presentation worth 3 points. This will be due toward the end of the semester; a firm due date has not yet been determined.
5. Final paper (individual) Your final paper is based on your final project, **but it is an individual paper**. It should be approximately 8 double spaced pages in length. This paper presents the results of the service-learning project as well as an explanation of its significance to the community development process. A review of relevant course readings is a required component. Thus, it is not a simple description of the project, nor a reporting of the result. Rather it will reflect your ability to understand the project as part of a larger community development strategy. You must understand the project itself, the development strategy of the “client,” and community development process in general. **This will be due on December 9 at 11:59 via Canvas.**

**To repeat: each student must hand in an individual final paper. The oral presentation and “deliverable” are group efforts.**

***Plagiarism:** Plagiarism – defined by the Random House dictionary as “use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work” – is not permitted. Penalties for plagiarism will range from a failing grade on the plagiarized assignment to university disciplinary action, depending on the nature of the infraction. Students should familiarize themselves with the appropriate use of sources in their research papers to avoid this problem. Please review the library’s information:  
<http://www.lib.usf.edu/guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>*

## **Schedule of Classes**

### **Week 1: August 23**

#### **Introduction to Community Development**

Canvas: Charles Buki article

Green and Haines chapter 1

Assignments: none

### **Week 2: August 30**

#### **The rise and fall of the urban core**

#### **Key urban demographic trends**

Canvas: State of Metropolitan America, Brookings. Please read the overview, chapters on Population; Race and Ethnicity.

Assignments: Economic and Demographic Base of the City. Report due via Canvas on August 30 before 8pm. Discussion board posts due by

**There will be no class meeting this week. Students will participate via discussion board**

**Week 3: September 6**

**Community Development and the Problem of Concentrated Poverty**

Green and Haines chapter 2

Canvas: William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears*. Chapters 1 and 2, on Canvas.

Assignments: Canvas quiz (due before class)  
Email with Palmetto team preferences due before class

**Week 4: September 13**

**Urban Issues in Florida and the Sunbelt**

Canvas: Justin Hollander, *Sunburnt Cities*. Chapters 6 and 9.

Canvas: George Packer, "The Ponzi State." *The New Yorker*.

Canvas: *Florida Megatrends* chapter 5

Assignments: Canvas quiz (due before class)

**Week 5: September 20**

**Political and Social Organization**

Green and Haines Chapters 7 and 11

Canvas: Kron, Red State Blue City

Canvas: Haynes: Critique of social capital

Assignment: Canvas quiz

**Week 6: September 27**

**Community Development and Community Organizing**

Green and Haines chapters 4 and 5

Canvas: Fisher and Schragge, "Contextualizing Community Organizing."

Assignments: Canvas quiz (due before class)

**Week 7: October 4**

**Affordable Housing, Home ownership and Mortgage Foreclosure**

Green and Haines, Chapter 8

Canvas: Dan Immergluck, *Foreclosed* Chapter 5

Canvas: Pitcoff, “Has Homeownership been Oversold?”

Assignments: Canvas quiz (due before class).

### **October 11 Take home midterm**

The midterm exam will be available on October 7 and is due at 11:59 on October 11. It will be two essay questions, and I assume you will spend about 2-3 hours writing (in addition to time you may spend organizing and outlining).

### **October 18**

**Left open for Palmetto projects**

### **October 25**

**Neighborhood change, public housing, and gentrification**

Canvas: J.Peter Byrne, “Two Cheers for Gentrification”

<http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1936&context=facpub>

Canvas: Goetz, “Better Neighborhoods, Better Outcomes?”

Assignment: Canvas quiz

### **November 1**

**Economic Development: Neighborhoods and Regions**

Canvas: New York Times series on economic development incentives (parts 1 – 3 and interactive page)

Canvas: Michael Porter, 1997. New Strategies for Inner City Economic Development. *Economic Development Quarterly* V. 11, no. 1

Green and Haines chapter 9

Assignments: Canvas quiz

### **November 8**

**Left Open for Palmetto work – and go vote!**

### **November 15**

**Sustainable development and social justice**

Canvas: Campbell, “Green Cities, Growing Cities”

Canvas “The Myth of Community Development,” Lemann (NYTimes)

Canvas: Hotchkiss, "Inclusionary Zoning."  
Canvas: Buki article (from first week).

Assignments: Canvas quiz

**November 22**

Work on Palmetto Projects

**Week 15 November 29**

Present findings of Palmetto projects

**December 6 Take home final exam**  
**December 9 - papers due**