Clemson University
College of Health, Education and Human Development
Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life
Fall 2015
FSC 830 Community Development: Principles and Practices
Wednesday 9:00 – 12:00 AM
IFNL Conference Room, University Center, Greenville

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.”

– Jean Vanier.
Instructor:
Dr. Arelis Moore de Peralta, Research Assistant Professor, Clemson University’s Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, 2078 Barre Hall Clemson, SC 29634. Office: 864-656-0719, Cell Ph: 864-508-1173, Email: ared@g.clemson.edu.

Office Hours
My office hours are 8:30 to 4:30 PM at Barre Hall, every day except Wednesdays, by appointment only. We could also arrange meetings through SKYPE. I should be able to stay after class if you make such a request in advance. To arrange appointments please either call me or e-mail me.

Policy on Instructor No Show
If the instructor is not there for some unforeseen reason, an assistant from the Institute will be there to notify students. If a meaningful class session cannot be held, then, at the convenience of students, a make-up session will be scheduled. In any case, students are not obligated to stay any more than 15 minutes from the scheduled start of the class.

Course Description
This course will provide an in-depth review and discussion of community development principles and practices. It is focused on the development of community initiatives in which children, youth and families are supported, and individual and family developments are enhanced and protected. These initiatives will be also contextualized in diverse or multicultural communities, in particular challenges and necessary adaptations for community development will be discussed.

The philosophical, theoretical and practical applications of major approaches to development are discussed, including the differences among community development, community building, community transformation, capacity building, sustainable community building, and participatory development. Different approaches to community development will be reviewed with an emphasis on asset-based approaches. A broad range of literature from across the world is presented.

In addition, this course will incorporate Critical Thinking (CT2) strategies with the objective of actively engaging you in thinking deeply about various issues related to community development. Critical thinking is not about merely learning about content, but having the ability to think clearly and rationally. Because this course has a focus on critical thinking, it will not be taught in a traditional lecture format but will take form around class discussions about course readings and case studies. Thus, for you to be successful in this course you must engage with the readings carefully and come prepared to discuss them in class. CT2 seminars are part of the Clemson University’s Quality Enhancement Plan – more information can be found here: http://www.clemson.edu/assessment/thinks2/.

The course is framed to tap into some of the key international discourse involving community work. Multiple perspectives on how to think about community and engage in community building are contrasted and compared. Emphasis is on work in multicultural, cross national environments. Lessons
learned from successes around the world will be reviewed, with an emphasis on the United States.

The course content is oriented to the theoretical and practical contributions of sociology, planning, communication, anthropology, community development, community psychology and political science. By the time a student completes this course should be able to:

- Identify and summarize the major theories of community, community building and development, with particular focus on principles of development that enhance neighborhood, child, youth, and family well-being.
- Understand and explain the differences in practice that results from following different theories of community.
- Analyze how community development practice has changed over time and what the latest advances in the field are.
- Categorize strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and determine their implications in taking action on community challenges.
- Evaluate and explain how some of the latest trends in globalization and technology has influenced the theory and practice of community development.
- Compare and contrast selected internationally recognized examples of community development initiatives that have effectively worked.
- Have opportunity to form their own view of perspectives on community and professional practice, drawing on some of the authors they have been exposed to during class and through readings.
- Develop a practical understanding of community principals to evaluate their own and others’ efforts in community development.

**HEHD Dispositions**

The College of Health, Education and Human Development strivens to educate leaders who are prepared to create and administer integrated education, health, and human-service systems. These leaders will be capable of bringing the collective resources of the community together to address the concerns and challenges facing many families and communities. Therefore, HEHD will prepare professionals who, in addition to content knowledge and skills, hold these six dispositions:

- Possess skills necessary to work collaboratively with individuals, families, and community groups from diverse backgrounds;
- Possess skills necessary to lead effectively and creatively in complex and changing environments and to become agents of change;
- Demonstrate flexibility, resilience, and adaptability, caring, ethical decision-making and ethical conduct;
- Possess knowledge of organizational behavior and how governance and systems work;
- Engage in professional development for continual growth and life-long learning; and
- Attain a global perspective and level of knowledge and skill necessary to succeed in a complex global economy.
Class Organization

This is a reading intensive course. This means that class attendance and actual reading of the materials is absolutely essential for this class to run smoothly, as you will be expected to join every class prepared to discuss what you have read. Readings are pre-assigned at the beginning of the course for each session. At the beginning of the class, the instructor will generally present short lectures and videos to introduce certain concepts pertaining to the topic of the week. These presentations and videos will be combined with several critical thinking questions to engage students in a critical examination of the weekly topic during class discussion. Certain sessions will include short essays addressing the corresponding topic. These essays will be due at the time of the class discussion and will be used for this end. In addition, the student will submit two papers on community development core themes, a research brief and a literature review. These two papers and essays will be evaluated on a rubric to assess the process of developing critical thinking skills. Students will be assigned the role of discussion leader of a community development core concept. Presentation topics will be selected by the student and instructor at the beginning of the class. In every session, students need to post a question for discussion, based on the readings, in Blackboard. These questions will be posted by Monday at noon each week. Selected questions will be analyzed in class.

Assignments

• **Paper on community development core themes.** Taking a topic from the suggestions discussed in class or one proposed by you, a 15-20 page double-space (not including references) paper will be required. The paper is a comprehensive literature review, which should follow methodological considerations as discussed in class. In addition, the comprehensive literature review should include two of the core concepts discussed in class. Students must submit a one-page paper proposal by September 16. In order to provide timely feedback, a 6-page draft of the paper is due by October 7, and the final paper is due the last week of class (Dec. 2). Criteria for grading are found on Blackboard so you would know the basis upon which I will grade.

  In order to write this paper, you will have to spend time understanding key concepts of theory and practice related to your topic and be able to condense these concepts into short, understandable paragraphs which cut to the heart of the what, why, how, with illustrations from the where, when and what. Criteria for grading are found on Blackboard so you know the basis upon which I will grade this paper. Please post your assignment on Blackboard for other participants to read.

• **Two essays on community development related topics.** Students will complete two essays on topics preselected by the facilitator. Essays will be discussed in class. The meta-cognition report will be completed based in your process and methods used to complete both essays

• **Course presentation and leading discussion on a core concept.** One hour will be allotted for a presentation and leading a discussion of the core concepts included in each class session. Students
will select two of the core concepts for presentation in two different sessions. Students will select two core concepts the first day of class. Students will decide on resources to be used for this end (Power Point, videos, etc.). Assigned readings in the course syllabus should be included in presentation’s contents. In addition, at least one of optional reading should be included. 30 minutes will be used for presentation and 30 minutes for a Q and A session. Criteria for grading the oral presentation/leading discussion are found on Blackboard.

- **Class participation.** Required class participation is evaluated based on students’ demonstration of having read the assigned documents through mastery of concepts and theoretical integration. Students will also need to post at least one question, emerging from the readings, and for discussion during class for each session and its core concept. This question will need to be posted on Blackboard before 12:00 PM the Monday before class. For sessions covering more
  - The course is a combination of lectures and seminars. In order for the course to be effective, each has to carry their fair share of the responsibility for being prepared for class. Therefore, all readings indicated by the instructor for full reading the week before class (rather than skim reading or optional reading) need to be read and enough time spent to understand what was read. Analysis, integration and synthesis are expected. If you want to expand your knowledge in a particular topic or concept, you could review the “Optional Readings” guide to find other readings suggested by the instructor.
  - Online students will be expected to interact with the content, instructor and classmates in real time, on a weekly basis through course assignments and discussions as indicated in this syllabus. Students will join the class through Adobe Connect with this link https://connect.clemson.edu/fcs830.

**Critical Thinking**

Critical thinking is the “intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. More simply, critical thinking is a self-aware process of thinking in a clear and systematic way in order to gain a deeper understanding. To do so it requires engaging in metacognition, which means reflecting on your own thinking by recognizing your own biases, assumptions, and considering how you create knowledge. Critical thinking does not come naturally to most people; therefore, you must practice critical thinking – which is one of the goals of this course. While in-class activities, discussions of readings, and other assignments may help you practice critical thinking, the case studies used in this course are being used as critical thinking artifacts.

*California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST)*: The CCTST is the premier critical thinking test that has been used across the U.S. as a discipline-neutral measure of reasoning. It has been designed to permit test-takers to demonstrate the critical thinking skills required to succeed in educational or workplace settings where solving problems and making decisions by forming reasoned judgments are
important. The test items range in difficulty and complexity, typically taking 45 – 50 minutes to complete. In FCS 830, you will complete this exam twice, once at the beginning of the semester (pre) and once at the end (post). You will not be graded based on your performance in this test, however you will receive participation points for completing the exam both times. The CCTST has been included so that Clemson can collect data on the effectiveness of this course and other CT2 seminars.

**Grading.** The following summarizes the basis for your grade. For each assignment you will find the grading criteria on Blackboard under “Assignments” so you know the basis that will be used to judge your work.

- Paper (comprehensive literature review) 50% (due Dec. 2th)
  - One-page paper proposal due by September 16.
  - 6 pages paper draft due by October 7.
- Two essays 10% each-20% (due Sept. 9 and Oct. 21)
- Meta-cognition report 5% (due Nov. 4)
- Presentation/leading discussion of two core concepts 10% each-20%
- Submission of question on Blackboard every Monday before noon; CT Pre-Post Test Completion (Due Aug.26 and Dec. 2) 5%

All papers are to be submitted electronically. My feedback on your paper will be done electronically as well. Assignments are designed to strengthen your capabilities to engage in critical thinking, synthesis and to develop original analytical frameworks. While the assignments don’t require you to memorize theories and practice principles, students should take this occasion to master synthesis skills so that core concepts on community development are incorporated into your working knowledge and practice.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

“As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a “high seminary of learning.” Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.”

When, in the opinion of a course instructor, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, that person must make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The reporting person may, at his/her discretion, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge. In cases of plagiarism (I.B.2.) instructors may use, as an option, the Plagiarism Resolution Form available from the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Instructors suspecting a violation of the academic integrity policy should not assign a grade penalty until the process is complete. For suspected academic dishonesty outside the course setting, please consult with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
Instructors should include a class policy on submission of work that has been turned in for credit for a previous course.

Please call 656-3022 with any questions about academic integrity.

**Copyright Statement**

Materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. Refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and “Fair Use Guidelines” policy on the Clemson University website for additional information: http://www.lib.clemson.edu/copyright/.

**Writing-style Requirements**

All formal written assignments requiring citations should follow APA (6th edition) guidelines for writing. I would recommend purchasing the APA 6th Edition Manual now (http://www.apastyle.org/). Otherwise, they are for checkout in the library and much of the information can be found online.

Other online resources for APA formatting:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

http://media.clemson.edu/library/all_subjects/styleguides/apa.pdf

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should make an appointment with Dr. Margaret Camp (656-6848), Director of Disability Services, to discuss specific needs within the first month of classes. Students should present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services when they meet with instructors. Accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester.

**The Clemson University Title IX (Sexual Harassment) statement**

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran’s status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/. Mr. Jerry Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 111 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.565.0899 (TDD).

**Use of Cell Phones and Laptops during class:**
Students are expected to silence their cell phones during class. It is neither appropriate nor respectful for students to answer their cells phones, play games, text, surf the web, go on Facebook or work on material not related to this course during a class session. Students should engage in class activities and related work so that they understand the material presented. It will be to your advantage to pay attention and participate in class.

Reading Assignments
Reading assignments are found on pages 8-16 of the syllabus. A table summary is also included in pages 17 to 18. Be sure to look at Blackboard for the week in case the instructor posts new materials for your review during the course of the semester.

Contents
Session 1 – 2 (August 19, 26): Introduction to the course; Critical Thinking; Conceptualizing Community and Community Development; Community Development theory and practice. Critical Thinking Pre-Test due August 26th.

Introduction to the course
- Syllabus, paper and essays instructions.

Critical Thinking and Meta-cognition

Critical Thinking Outcomes. Students will be expected to:
- Evaluate the advantages of the critical thinking process over other traditional methods of learning.
- Explain which modifications to their own learning styles are needed to incorporate critical thinking in their learning process.
- Analyze the relevance and implications of the critical thinking and meta-cognition methodology for this course.

Conceptualizing Community and Community Development; Community Development theory and practice.
1. How is community defined?
2. What is the practical value of having working definitions in mind?
3. What normative structures are related to definitions?
4. What are some of the elements of definitions that have made their way into several different approaches to practice?
5. How is community development defined?
6. Which are the core elements of community development as a concept?
7. What is the history of community development in America?
What is community?

- See Diaz’s review of definitions and commonalities in definitions of community at http://uregina.ca/~sauchyn/socialcohesion/definitions%20of%20community.htm

What is Community Development?

- Review definitions of community development at http://uregina.ca/~sauchyn/socialcohesion/definitions%20of%20community%20development.htm

Community Development Theory and Practice


CORE CONCEPT: SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- Review the following summary about SOC: http://www.wright-house.com/psychology/sense-of-community.html

Session 3 – 4 (September 2 and 9): Community Development and changing societies: social diversity. First Essay due Sept. 9.

1. How are racial and ethnic populations changing in communities today?
2. What are the effects of these changes on community development practice?
3. Which adaptations are needed in order to absorb and successfully incorporate such changes?

For your first essay you will discuss and provide your answers to the three questions (above). Due Sept. 9.

- Review the following maps:


CORE CONCEPT: SENSE OF BELONGING

Theory

Sense of Belonging

Sense of Belonging and Immigration

Sense of Belonging among Hispanic immigrants

Session 5 - 6 (September 16 and 23): Approaches to professional work in/with community groups. One page paper proposal due Sept. 16.

- What are the different approaches which have been used in professional work in/with community groups during the past decades?
- What are the contributions of the various approaches?
- Which are the principles that guide professionals in each approach?
  - How are professionals guided in each approach to build relationships and conduct conversations?
  - How fast can change be achieved within communities?
  - Who are the agents of change and what are their roles?

Three themes of community development (“How to do”)
  a. Self-help, non-directive, or cooperative
b. Technical intervention, planning, or assistance  
c. Conflict or confrontation


**Selected Approaches to Community Development**

1. **Participatory and Bottom-up Community Development**

2. **Sustainable development**

3. **Directive vs. non-directive approach for community development**

4. **Community Economic Development Strategies**
   - Kretzmann, J. P. & McKnight, J. (1993). Building communities from the inside out: path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets. Chicago, IL: Acta Publications.

5. **People-Centered Development**
   - Go to David Korten’s People Centered Development Forum at [http://livingeconomiesforum.org/](http://livingeconomiesforum.org/), click on “The Great Turning”/”Earth Community”. Korten coined the term “people-centered development” to contest the traditional international development approaches.

**Session 7, September 30: Issue-based or problem-based community development in practice.**

In this session we will examine issue-based community development practices: How issues are identified, how the community organizes to address those issues, and how community participants get effectively involved in this process. We will also examine the importance of empowerment to successfully address, from within, issues identified within communities. We will analyze two selected issue-based approaches and explore the effectiveness and challenges for each approach.
Two issues-based approaches to community change:


CORE CONCEPT: EMPOWERMENT


Session 8 and 9 (October 7 and 14): Asset/Strengths/Capacity-based Approaches. 6 pages paper draft due Oct. 7.

“Asset-based community development (ABCD) is an alternative approach to community development that starts with what is present in a community, such as the capacities and assets of local individuals, associations, and institutions, rather than with what is deficient in a community and what a community’s needs are” (Keeble, 2006). “Gifts, skills and capacities of individuals, associations and institutions within a community” (Kretzmann and McKnight, 1993).

Assets-based community development has its roots in community-based education, it involves how practitioners relate to community members, and also has philosophical roots in a theory of change.

- International Association for Community Development. (Nov. 2009). What Are Asset-Based Approaches to Community Development? Online Report.
• Kretzmann, J. P. & McKnight, J. (1993). Building communities from the inside out: path toward finding and mobilizing a community’s assets. Chicago, IL: Acta Publications.


CORE CONCEPT: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Why it is important for citizens to participate in their own community building efforts? Which processes are related to meaningful participation by community members? Why should we emphasize children’s, youth’s and women’s participation? How can we help persons with disability participate in community development? Through the reading process, you should be able to connect citizen participation to sense of community, attachment to place, sense of belonging, and empowerment.

• CAG Consultants. Participation: a theoretical context. Published online at http://www.cagconsultants.co.uk/resources/communities/Participation_Theoretical_Frameworks.pdf.
• VIDEO: Inviting Neighbors to Participate in Community Development-Watch Video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4b56ky61l8

Second Essay: Students are expected to (a) analyze characteristics of the assets based approach to community development based in the analysis of the case study (video); (b) Identify and evaluate implications of selecting ABCD as approach to community development in a developing country; (c) Compare and contrast characteristics of implementing ABCD approach in the United States and in a developing country. Due October 21.


“The central premise of social capital is that social networks have value. Social capital refers to the collective value of all "social networks" (who people know) and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other ("norms of reciprocity").” (The Saguaro Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School).

The concept of social capital will be reviewed by discussing:

• What is bonding and bridging social capital?
• Why is social capital important for community development?
• What is done to build social capital in communities?
- How is social capital measured?
- What are the negative aspects of social capital?


CORE CONCEPT: COLLECTIVE EFFICACY


Family support emerged in the mid-1970s to fill gaps families were experiencing in their support. Combining knowledge about child development, family systems, and the impact of communities on families, this grassroots movement focused on preventing family crises and promoting healthy family functioning. Most of these programs called themselves "family resource programs". They fostered a welcoming environment so that parents could feel that in at least one place in the community, someone understood and valued the work they were doing with their kids (Best Practices Project, 1996). These programs emphasized family-to-family support rather than dependence on professional support systems, and their services were—and still are—entirely voluntary. From a family support perspective, seeking help in parenting is a sign of strength.
(Source:http://www.practicenotes.org/vol5_no1/what_is_family_support_mvmt.htm)


CORE CONCEPT: SOCIAL SETTINGS


**CORE CONCEPT: COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH - TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

- Text, Chapter 1: Minkler & Wallerstein, Introduction to Community Based Participatory Research.
- Text, Chapter 3: Israel, B. et al. Critical issues in developing and following Community Based Participatory Research principles.

Session 13 (November 11): Geographic Information System (GIS) for Community Development: The Power of Mapping.

A geographic information system (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends. GIS is the go-to technology for making better decisions about location. Common examples include allocation of resources, route/corridor selection, evacuation planning, conservation, natural resource extraction, etc. Making correct decisions about location is critical to the success of an organization or program.

This is going to be an interactive section. Students must have their laptops with them. Patricia Carbajales, research associate and Cyberinsfractuture Technical Integrationa at Clemson University, will be facilitating this interactive GIS session.

Session 14 (November 18): Community Building: Building Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities movement seeks to achieve radical, measurable improvement in health status and long-term quality of life. We are going to review this framework including the theory and methods that support this movement.


CORE CONCEPT: SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NETWORKING


CORE CONCEPT: ONLINE/VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES

• What are Online Communities at http://www.partnerships.org.uk/community/what.htm
• Review about Online Communities at http://www.feverbee.com/
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